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I... I'M NOT AFRAID,
RAOUL! THEY CAN KILL
US ... BUT NOT OUR
LOVE!

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Hair.....

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Clothing.....

You BELONG to ME!



"WHEN I KISSED HIM, I WANTED TO BLOT OUT THE REST OF THE WORLD AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN IT! THERE WAS NO ROOM IN MY LOVE-LIFE FOR INTRUDERS! AND SO... I TRIED TO BUILD A WALL OF LOVE AROUND US... AND LEARNED THAT MY KIND OF LOVE CAN BE DANGEROUS!"

Oscar Whitney

"WHEN I LOOK BACK AND TRY TO FIGURE THINGS OUT, ONE SCENE COMES TO MY MIND! I MIGHT HAVE BEEN FIVE OR SIX YEARS OLD AND MY STEADY BEAU WAS MY ADORED AND ADORING DAD..."

SHE CAN'T HAVE IT!
I WON'T LET HER
HAVE IT! IT'S MY
DOLL, DADDY...
IT'S MINE!

OF COURSE IT'S YOURS,
BABY! NOW STOP CRYING
AND LET'S FIND SOME
ICE CREAM, SHALL WE?



"I REMEMBER SOMETHING ELSE, TOO! IT WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS LATER THAT I LAY IN BED ONE NIGHT AND LISTENED TO MOTHER AND DAD QUARRELING... ABOUT ME!"

BUT YOU'RE SPOILING
HER, DEAR! JANET'S GOT
TO LEARN SOMETIME
THAT SHE CAN'T HAVE
EVERYTHING AND EVERY-
BODY HER OWN WAY!

NONSENSE, MEG! SHE'S
A LITTLE SPOILED... YES
... BUT SHE'S GOT PLENTY
OF TIME TO LEARN TO
TAKE DISAPPOINTMENTS!
I LIKE HER AS SHE IS!



"IN SPITE OF MOTHER'S WARNINGS, I FOUND LIFE PERFECT! AFTER A HAPPY, CAREFREE TEEN-AGE WHIRL, I CAME TO REST IN THE ARMS OF MARSH PARKER, ONE OF THE HAND-SOMEST, SWEETEST, MOST ELIGIBLE BOYS IN TOWN!"

JANET---BABY---THIS IS FOR KEEPS! WHAT A MISTER AND MISSUS WE'LL BE! WE'LL MAKE HISTORY!

OH, MARSH, I LOVE YOU!

"WE HAD KISSED BEFORE, BUT NEVER LIKE THIS! AND AS I FELT MARSH'S POUNDING HEART AGAINST MINE, I COULD FEEL MY PULSES BEATING... 'YOU BELONG TO ME... YOU BELONG TO ME....'



"M^ARSH AND I HAD BEEN ENGAGED FOR A FEW WEEKS WHEN I FIRST BEGAN TO FEEL A GNAWING UNCERTAINTY! OF COURSE, I SAW HIM OFTEN... AT LEAST THREE TIMES A WEEK! BUT WHAT OF THE TIMES WHEN WE WERE SEPARATED, I WONDERED? WHERE WAS HE? WITH WHOM? ONE NIGHT..."

ARTHUR, BE REALISTIC! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH A COMPLETE TROUSSEAU COSTS?

WHAT IS HE DOING NOW? WHY, IT'S SIMPLY... IS HE ALONE... OR WITH SOMEONE ELSE? SHALL I CALL HIM AND FIND OUT?



"I TURNED AND WALKED AWAY WITHOUT GIVING HER A CHANCE TO CATCH HER BREATH! I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE FLIRTING WITH MARSH, EVEN IF IT WAS HARMLESS! BUT MARSH WAS A LITTLE UPSET..."

HONEY, THAT WAS A LOW, UNDERHANDED TRICK! LEILA WAS ONLY KIDDING!

I DON'T LIKE JOKES LIKE THAT, MARSH! FROM NOW ON, THERE'S ONLY ONE GIRL IN YOUR LIFE---AND IT'S NOT LEILA!



"I DIDN'T CALL HIM THAT NIGHT---BUT THAT GNAWING UNCERTAINTY BEGAN TO MOUNT WITHIN ME! ONE AFTERNOON, WHEN MARSH AND I WERE ON A SHOPPING TRIP, WE RAN INTO LEILA COOMBES! SHE HAD BEEN ONE OF MARSH'S GIRLFRIENDS, BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL..."

MARSH PARKER, I'M MAD AT YOU! YOU WENT AND GOT ENGAGED WITHOUT EVEN GIVING ME A CHANCE!

YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE, LEILA---SO WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP AND PRACTICE KNITTING!



"I SPOKE LIGHTLY, BUT THERE WAS A STRONG EMOTIONAL DRIVE BEHIND MY WORDS! THAT GNAWING UNCERTAINTY I HAD BEEN FEELING---I KNEW THE NAME FOR IT THEN! IT WAS... JEALOUSY!"

I CAN'T BEAR TO SHARE HIM WITH ANYONE---ANYONE, AND I WON'T!



"The FEELING GREW! I TRIED TO SUPPRESS IT, BUT IT WAS WITH ME ALWAYS! I HATED TO THINK OF MARSH IN HIS OFFICE, ENROSS-ED IN HIS WORK, FORGETTING ABOUT ME FOR HOURS AT A TIME! I STARTED TO PHONE HIM THERE, AT LEAST ONCE A DAY..."

"LOOK, BABY, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONFERENCE RIGHT NOW --- CAN I CALL YOU BACK? SURE I DO, BABY! YOU KNOW I DO!"



"THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE THAT WAS BEGINNING TO BOTHER ME --- TUESDAY NIGHTS! FOR YEARS, MARSH HAD BEEN MEETING A GROUP OF OLD SCHOOL FRIENDS EVERY TUESDAY! IT WAS STRICTLY AN ALL-MALE AFFAIR, BUT I RESENTED IT! I FELT SHUT OUT---EXCLUDED---"

MARSH... COULDN'T YOU... JUST ONCE ---NOT GO? STAY HERE WITH ME INSTEAD!

GOSH, BABY, THE GUYS EXPECT ME AND I DON'T LIKE TO...



"MARSH DIDN'T NEED THAT OLD GANG ---NOW THAT HE HAD ME! I SNUGGLED CLOSE TO HIM..."

WHO'S MORE IMPORTANT, DARLING --- THAT SILLY CROWD OF YOURS OR ...ME?

WHAT A FOOLISH QUESTION! HAVE YOU LOOKED AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR LATELY, BEAUTIFUL?



MARSH IS ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME! I WANT TO BE WITH HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE! IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG IN THAT... IS THERE?

THERE, THERE, BABY, CALM DOWN! OF COURSE THERE ISN'T!



"WHEN MARSH LEFT THAT NIGHT, MOTHER LOOKED AT ME RATHER STRANGELY. SHE KNEW, NATURALLY, ABOUT HIS REGULAR TUESDAY DATE AND SHE COULD GUESS WHY HE HAD MISSED IT!"

JANET, DARLING, DID YOU KEEP MARSHALL FROM HIS APPOINTMENT? I'M AFRAID YOU'RE INCLINED TO BE A LITTLE--- WELL---SELFISH ABOUT MARSH, BABY!

THANKS, MOTHER, BUT I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! AND I DON'T NEED ANY ADVICE!

"IN MY BEDROOM, I LAY WIDE-AWAKE, LISTENING AS MOTHER REPEATED TO DAD WHAT SHE HAD SAID YEARS AGO---THAT I WAS SPOILED, TOO POSSESSIVE! DAD, THE OLD DEAR, LAUGHED IT OFF! IT WAS ONLY NATURAL, HE SAID! IN THE DARK, I SMILED..."

DAD'S RIGHT---IT IS ONLY NATURAL TO WANT TO BE THE ONLY ONE IN MARSH'S LIFE---AS I INTEND TO BE!



"IT WAS A FEW DAYS LATER THAT I STARTED TO PLAN OUR ENGAGEMENT PARTY! I HAD DRAWN UP A LIST OF GUESTS TO BE ASKED, WHEN MARSH PRODUCED A LIST OF HIS OWN---A LIST OF HIS FRIENDS AND RELATIVES! I FELT A SUDDEN PANG OF JEALOUSY..."



"FROM MARSH'S TONE, I REALIZED THAT I HAD VENTURED TOO FAR! ALL RIGHT, THEN! I WOULD INVITE THEM! I FOUGHT DOWN THE ENMITY I FELT FOR THESE INTRUDERS AS I TOOK MARSH'S LIST...."

I'M SORRY, PARLING, YOU'RE RIGHT! I MUST BE A LITTLE HYSTERICAL WITH ALL THIS PLANNING AND EXCITEMENT!

SKIP IT, HONEY! LET'S NOT GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT!



"I COULD THINK OF NOTHING ELSE FROM THAT MOMENT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE PARTY! ALL THOSE PEOPLE HAD KNOWN MARSH SINCE HE WAS A BABY---HAD SPECIAL STORIES ABOUT HIM, NO DOUBT, AND LITTLE PET NAMES AND PERSONAL ANECDOTES! MY FIANCÉ AS MOTHER HELPED ME DRESS..."

YOU LOOK LOVELY, DEAR! I'M SURE MARSH'S PEOPLE WILL BE WILD ABOUT YOU! IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET ALONG WELL WITH YOUR HUSBAND'S FAMILY, YOU KNOW!

WHO CARES WHAT THEY THINK? WE'LL NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN ANYHOW!



"THEY ALL CAME... EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM! I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW MARSH, HAND-SOME, BRILLIANT MARSH, COULD POSSIBLY BE RELATED TO THOSE PRYING, STIFF-NECKED, HUMORLESS PEOPLE! WELL, I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT GET CHUMMY WITH ANY OF THEM EVER!"

AUNT SARAH, THIS IS JANET! I PROMISED HER THAT YOU'D GIVE US YOUR SECRET APPLE PIE RECIPE AS A WEDDING PRESENT!

HMM... I MIGHT. AT THAT! THAT'S A VERY PRETTY GIRL YOU'VE GOT THERE, MARSHALL!



"TO MY HORROR, THESE PEOPLE, THESE STRANGERS, SEEMED TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THEIR OPINIONS AND IDEAS ABOUT MARSH AND ME WERE IMPORTANT! THEY WERE ACTUALLY MAKING PLANS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR US, AS THOUGH THEY MATTERED! I WANTED TO SCREAM!"

I HOPE YOU'RE PLANNING A BIG CHURCH WEDDING! I LOVE 'EM!

A SMALLER WEDDING AT HOME WOULD BE PRETTY, TOO!

OH, I'M WITH AUNT SARAH! NOTHING LIKE A BIG WEDDING WITH LOTS OF WHITE SATIN AND LACE!

I CAN'T BEAR IT! HOW DARE THEY... HOW DARE THEY INTERFERE IN MY LIFE! I WON'T LET THEM!



"I WAS MARRYING MARSH. NOT HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS ... AND I WAS JEALOUS AND ANGRY ENOUGH TO LET THEM KNOW IT!"

"IT'S VERY SWEET AND GENEROUS OF YOU TO BE SO HELPFUL, BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, MARSH AND I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE OUR OWN PLANS ... ALONE! THANKS A LOT ... BUT YOU'RE ALL WASTING YOUR TIME!"

"NO ONE SAID A WORD! THEN, MARSH'S MOTHER GOT UP AND SMILED SORT OF WEAKLY! I SUPPOSE THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER, BECAUSE SHE HAD A GOOD DEAL OF TROUBLE IN SAYING THE WORDS ..."

"IT... IT'S GOTTEN RATHER LATE, HASN'T IT? I... THINK IT'S TIME WE ALL WENT!"

"WELL... IF YOU CAN'T STAY, I WON'T TRY TO PERSUADE YOU!"



"I COULD SENSE THAT MARSH WAS DISTURBED, BUT I WAS CONFIDENT THAT I COULD WIN HIM OVER! BUT..."

"JANET, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ... IN PRIVATE!"

"I'D NEVER SEEN MARSH ACT THAT WAY BEFORE! I HAD INSULTED HIS FAMILY. HE SAID! I TRIED TO MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND...."

"BUT, DARLING, WE DON'T NEED THOSE PEOPLE! THEY'LL JUST CLUTTER UP OUR LIVES..."

"SHUT UP, JANET! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT!"



"HE WAS SHOUTING AT ME, SAYING THINGS THAT I COULDN'T BELIEVE! HE SAID I WAS SPOILED, SELFISH ... THAT I HAD TRIED TO CUT HIM OFF FROM PEOPLE AND THINGS HE LIKED ..."

"MARSH, STOP SAYING THOSE THINGS! YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU!"

"LOVE! THAT'S A LAUGH! YOU WANT TO OWN ME, AS IF I WERE A TOY! YOU'D SMOTHER ME WITH YOUR KIND OF LOVE ... OR ENGULF ME, LIKE A MAN-EATING SHARK!"



"HE WENT AWAY! HE WAS GLAD TO GO, TO FREE HIMSELF OF MY VIOLENT, ALL-DESTROYING JEALOUSY! AND I, SHOCKED INTO VIOLENT PANIC, THREW MYSELF ACROSS MY BED, SOBS TEARING FROM MY THROAT..."

"HE'S ... HE'S GONE ... HE'S GONE..."

"DON'T CRY, BABY, HE'LL BE BACK! LOVERS DO HAVE QUARRELS YOU KNOW!"

"THIS WAS NOT JUST 'A LOVERS' QUARREL', ARTHUR!"



"**WEEKS**
PASSED AND MARSH
DID NOT COME
BACK! I CRIED
UNTIL THERE
WERE NO TEARS
LEFT! I WAS
ASHAMED TO
GO OUT, TO BE
CALLED THE
GIRL WHO WAS
JILTED!"

FEELING BETTER
THESE DAYS, BABY?
HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE A NICE
CRUISE OR A
RESORT VACATION
TO CHEER YOU UP?

THIS TIME, ARTHUR,
LET ME DECIDE! I
WANT JANET TO
VISIT MY OLD
FRIEND, EMILY
HARRIS, IN
CALIFORNIA!
I'LL WRITE HER
TONIGHT!

"**ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR ME!** I WAS
TO STAY WITH EMILY HARRIS, WHO HAD GONE TO SCHOOL
WITH MOTHER AND WAS NOW A WELL-KNOWN SCREEN-
WRITER! BUT I HAD NO INTEREST IN THE FUTURE... ONLY
IN THE PAST!"

I LOVED HIM... I WANTED
TO KEEP HIM CLOSE TO ME...
WHY COULDN'T HE UNDER-
STAND THAT... **WHY?** WHAT
DID I DO THAT WAS SO
TERRIBLY WRONG?

"**EMILY HARRIS MET ME AT THE STATION AND DROVE ME**
TO HER HOUSE! IT WAS QUIET AND COMFORTABLE, RATHER
LIKE ITS OWNER. SHE ASKED ME TO CALL HER 'EM', AND WAS
FRIENDLY WITHOUT BEING PRYING..."

I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND
A BIT OF COMPANY, JANET!
I'VE ANOTHER HOUSE
GUEST STAYING HERE!

WE'LL JUST
KEEP OUT OF
EACH OTHER'S
WAY, EM! ALL I
ASK IS PEACE-
FUL SILENCE!

"**The moment**
I SAW EM'S
OTHER HOUSE
GUEST, I RE-
GRETTED NOT
HAVING CHANGED
INTO MY PINK
DRESS OR
BRUSHED MY
HAIR FOR MY
HEART, WHICH
HAD BEEN A
HEAVY STONE
FOR SO LONG,
BEGAN TO RACE
AND POUND!"

I TAKE IT ALL
BACK, AUNT EM!
THINGS HAVE
STARTED
PERCOLATING...
SUDDENLY!

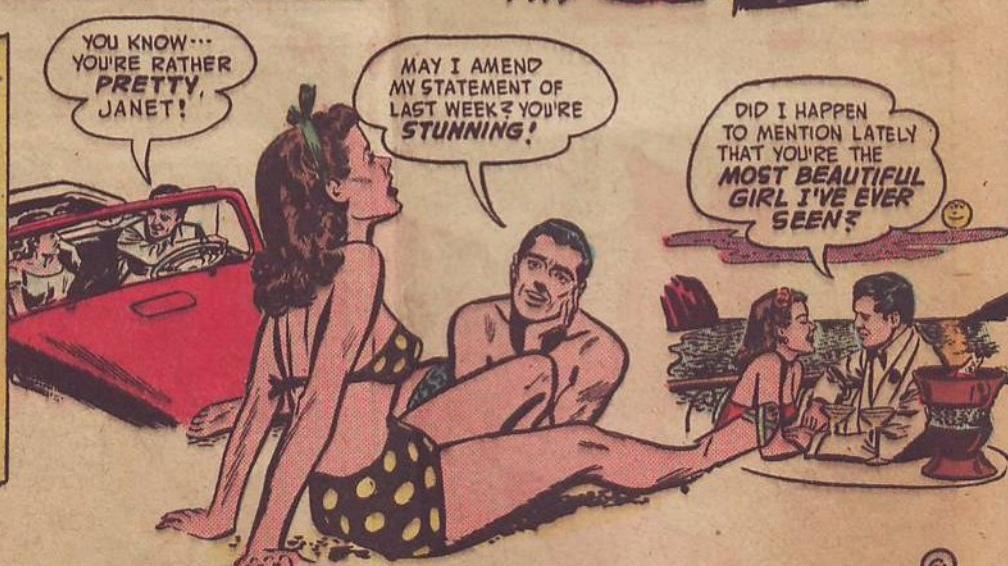


"**IT WASN'T**
VANITY OR FLIRT-
TIOUSNESS THAT
MADE MY EYES
SPARKLE AGAIN,
THAT GAVE ME A
GLOWING, EXHIL-
ARATED FEELING!
IT WAS COLIN, SO
ATTRACTIVE, SO
WONDERFULLY
MASCULINE AND
VITAL, WHO
TURNED
CALIFORNIA
INTO A FAIRYLAND
FOR ME! HE
TOOK ME
EVERYWHERE..."

YOU KNOW...
YOU'RE RATHER
PRETTY,
JANET!

MAY I AMEND
MY STATEMENT OF
LAST WEEK? YOU'RE
STUNNING!

DID I HAPPEN
TO MENTION LATELY
THAT YOU'RE THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL
GIRL I'VE EVER
SEEN?



"IT HAPPENED ONE MORNING, RIGHT AFTER BREAKFAST! AS COLIN AND I GOT UP TO LEAVE THE TABLE, WE COLLIDED ACCIDENTALLY! AND THEN I WAS IN HIS ARMS, RETURNING HIS KISSES WITH A FIRE AND ARDOR I NEVER KNEW WERE WITHIN ME! THIS WAS LOVE!"

DARLING... DARLING...



"MARSH WAS A SHADOW IN THE PAST, A SWEET, BUT RATHER UNIMPORTANT MEMORY! COLIN MADE MY HEAD SPIN AND MY HEART CONTRACT WITH FEELING! SUDDENLY, A POLITE LITTLE COUGH MADE US BOTH JUMP..."

DON'T TELL ME, KIDS, LET ME GUESS... IT'S A ROMANCE!

"YOU'RE WRONG, AUNT EM... IT'S LOVE! DO YOU MIND IF I HUM 'THE WEDDING MARCH'?"



"I LOVED HIM SO MUCH THAT IT HURT SOMETIMES! I WANTED HIM TO THINK HIGHLY OF ME, TO BE PROUD OF THE THINGS I DID AND THE WAY I LOOKED! FOR TO ME, COLIN WAS PERFECT---UNTIL---"

"BOO! ARE YOU TRYING TO STEAL AWAY FROM ME---UNSEEN?"

IF YOU MUST KNOW... YES! I'VE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE BEAUTY SALON, AND IT'S ALL FOR YOUR BENEFIT!



"A CHANGE CAME OVER HIS FACE AS HE PULLED ME CLOSER, AND THE HUSKINESS IN HIS VOICE FOUND A RESPONSE IN MY THROBBING HEART! HOW LUCKY I WAS, TO BE LOVED SO MUCH... BY SUCH A MAN!"

I DON'T LIKE ANYTHING THAT TAKES YOU AWAY FROM ME! MUST YOU GO, DARLING... EVEN IF I ASK YOU NOT TO?

OF COURSE NOT. SILLY! I'LL JUST PHONE AND CANCEL THE APPOINTMENT!



"EM WAS AS PLEASED AND HAPPY AS WE WERE, AND GAVE A GLAMOROUS PARTY IN OUR HONOR! IT WAS ALL AN EXCITING DREAM, UNTIL..."

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE, MISS HARDY?

WHY, I'D LOVE...

DON'T THINK ME RUDE... BUT

NOTHING DOING! SHE'S MY GIRL!



"COLIN DREW ME INTO THE GARDEN AND KISSED ME UNTIL I REELED! I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE WITH HIM, THAT THE FULL MEANING OF HIS WORDS DID NOT STRIKE ME---UNTIL LATER!"

I'M A FUNNY KIND OF GUY, DARLING! I WANT YOU TO MYSELF, WITH NO INTERFERENCE! YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

OF COURSE, I DO! IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL!



"**I** WAS SO CERTAIN THAT EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT! THEN... LITTLE BY LITTLE, SMALL DOUBTS BEGAN TO CREEP INTO MY MIND, AN UNEASINESS STIRRED WITHIN ME! THERE WAS THE MORNING THAT I PHONED MOTHER AND DAD TO TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS! WHEN I TOLD COLIN THEY WERE COMING TO MEET HIM, HE FROWNED..."

"COULDN'T THEY JUST LEAVE US ALONE FOR A WHILE, JANET? PHONE THEM AGAIN... TELL THEM TO POSTPONE THEIR TRIP!"

COLIN, I COULDN'T! I DON'T WANT TO! THEY'RE MY FAMILY!

"**L**ATER, IN THE GARDEN, EM'S SPANIEL CAME UP TO PLAY! HE WAS A SILKY-HAIRED, LOVING PET, WHO ADORED YOU WITH HIS SOFT EYES AND LIKED TO CUDDLE CLOSE! I LIKED IT, TOO..."

YES, I DO LOVE YOU, MUFFIN, I DO! YOU'RE A BEAUTY! GIVE JANET A KISS!

STOP IT, JANET! YOU'RE MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF!

"**O**F COURSE, HE WAS SORRY HE HAD SPOKEN SO RUDELY, AND SAID IT HAD JUST BEEN A MOOD! BUT I COULDN'T FIGHT DOWN THAT RISING FEELING OF UNEASINESS...."

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER KISS ME, BABY? COME ON---MAKE IT A GOOD ONE!

COLIN---I WANT TO TALK TO YOU... SERIOUSLY!

"**I** WAS HARD FOR ME TO SPEAK AS I DID, BUT WE LOVED EACH OTHER SO MUCH---TOO MUCH TO LET OUR LOVE BE SPOILED! I SPOKE MY MIND AND MY HEART..."

DARLING, I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE IN THE WHOLE WORLD---AND ALWAYS WILL! BUT DON'T YOU SEE... THERE'S ALWAYS A LITTLE BIT OF LOVE LEFT OVER FOR SOMEONE OR SOMETHING ELSE? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!

"**C**OLIN'S ANSWER WAS A KISS. I THOUGHT THAT MEANT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD... BUT I WAS WRONG! FOR THAT VERY AFTERNOON UGLINESS REAL UGLINESS... CAME BETWEEN US! I HAD JUST TAKEN THE GROCERIES FROM THE DELIVERY BOY."

THANKS, BUTCH! AND YOU CAN KEEP THE CHANGE!

JANET! JANET, WHERE ARE YOU?

WHO WAS THAT? YOU WERE TALKING TO SOMEONE! WHO WAS IT? DON'T LIE TO ME!

STOP. COLIN... YOU'RE HURTING ME!



HOW HE PROPOSED

STRANGE AND VARIOUS ARE THE MANY WAYS FOR A MAN TO POP THE QUESTION -- BUT NONE STRANGER THAN THIS PROPOSAL, TOLD US BY 19-YEAR OLD MARY GAINES OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT...

I WAS WALKING ALONG NEAR THE CAMPUS OF YALE UNIVERSITY ONE DAY, NOT FAR FROM MY HOME, WHEN A TOTAL STRANGER CAME UP TO ME AND SEIZED MY HAND...



DESPERATELY, I LOOKED AROUND FOR HELP--AND MY ATTENTION WAS CAUGHT BY A GROUP OF COLLEGE YOUTHS STANDING SOME DISTANCE AWAY AND GRINNING AT ME! THEN, WHEN I SAW THE PADDLES IN THEIR HANDS, MY FEAR BEGAN TO VANISH!"

THOSE PADDLES ARE USED FOR FRATERNITY INITIATIONS--AND SINCE THEY ARE WATCHING US, THIS MUST BE PART OF THE INITIATION STUNT.



"REALIZING THAT THE POOR FELLOW HAD PROPOSED ONLY TO KEEP FROM BEING PADDLED BY HIS FRAT BROTHERS, I DECIDED TO PLAY ALONG WITH THE GAG!"

WHY, OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU!

SWELL-- I'M GOING TO HOLD YOU TO THAT PROMISE ONE OF THESE DAYS!



I LOVE YOU-- WILL YOU MARRY ME?

YOU--YOU MUST BE MAD!



I TRIED TO DISMISS THE INCIDENT FROM MY MIND, BUT I COULDN'T SEEM TO FORGET THE SMILING, HANDSOME FACE OF THE BOY WHO HAD PROPOSED TO ME--OR THE STRANGE, CRYPTIC REMARK HE'D MADE JUST BEFORE HE LEFT! THEN, WHILE WATCHING THE YALE FOOTBALL TEAM PRACTICING ONE DAY..."

YUP--AND I KNEW FATE WOULD BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN SOMEHOW! HOW ABOUT COMING TO THE FOOTBALL RALLY DANCE WITH ME TONIGHT?



"I DATED HOWARD CARTER THAT NIGHT AND MANY NIGHTS AFTER THAT... UNTIL I KNEW I WAS VIOLENTLY IN LOVE WITH HIM!"



"AND THEN, ONE NIGHT..."

DARLING, I DO LOVE YOU--AND THIS ISN'T JUST AN INITIATION GAG! HOW ABOUT KEEPING THAT PROMISE YOU MADE WHEN I PROPOSED TO YOU THAT FIRST DAY WE MET?

OH, YES,
SWEET-
HEART--
YES!



WHEN YOUR DREAM MAN FINALLY POPS THE QUESTION TO YOU, READER, WRITE AND TELL US HOW HE PROPOSED, WON'T YOU?

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APPEALING!



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Reluctant LOVE

AS THE TRAIN pounded westward, Jinny's head seemed to pound in rhythm with the wheels. She was tired, of course, or how could she feel so unhappy? Why was she so reluctant to see the passing miles, to know that every instant was bringing her closer to Elmburg...and Burton?

Burton was Jinny's fiancé. Although they had been engaged for three full years, Jinny could still remember clearly the proposal. Burton had said, "I judge that you are the right type of girl for me and I hope I can make my family see it that way. They're very choosy, especially about me. Anyhow, we needn't worry about it now, since it won't be practical for us to get married till I get a desk in the manager's office."

He had then proceeded to describe his job, omitting not one little detail, relishing the sound of his own voice as he carefully explained the way the books were kept and how petty cash had come to be entrusted to him.

Even then, Jinny had wondered faintly how she had come to accept him. She was all alone, with not one relative to go to, to confide in. When her parents had died, she had worked hard to take care of herself and Burton seemed so solid! He represented the security of a house of her own and a real position in society. She would be Mrs. Burton Finley!

But now, as the train sped along the rails, bringing her to Elmburg in answer to Burton's neat, well-phrased letter, Jinny found that her fatigue gave her a new clarity. Burton was stuffy! He was smug, overly cautious, and altogether dull. He wasn't solid...he was stolid!

Jinny would have given anything

to acquire a sudden, brisk spurt of courage. She would just march herself right off the train at the next stop and wire Burton that she had changed her mind. But she couldn't! Instead, seeking to forget the whole thing, she closed her eyes and slept.

As she slept, her head sank lower and lower, coming to rest finally on the shoulder of the young man who was sitting next to her. He was dark and handsome, and he noted with interest the lovely girl who seemed so weary and disturbed. Instead of waking her, he carefully put his arm around her shoulders to make her more comfortable, and tucked her head into the bend of his neck.

And still Jinny slept on, smiling a little in her sleep. The train started to slow down, and a conductor, giving full play to his baritone voice, shouted, "Elmburg! Elmburg!"

With a frightened start, Jinny awoke. And as she lifted her head, her lips met those of the stranger, her seat companion...met...and clung! It was a devastating kiss, exciting and wonderful! Jinny, her eyes wide, drew back and stared at the man she had just kissed.

"I saw that!" an indignant voice bellowed. "You saw it, too, didn't you, mother? It...it's an outrage!" It had been a devastating kiss, for Burton had seen it happen! "You needn't bother getting off the train!" he barked.

"I wasn't intending to!" Jinny answered calmly.

"No, she couldn't get off here," said the stranger next to her. "I wouldn't permit it! She can't walk out on her future, you know!"

QUEEN of HEARTS



"**M**Y LOVE STORY IS STRANGE. THERE ARE NOT MANY LIKE IT. FOR ALL THROUGH LIFE, I HAD **ONE RIVAL IN LOVE**... JUST ONE! CHARMING, GLAMOROUS, IRRESISTIBLE, SHE COLLECTED MEN AS THOUGH THEY WERE TROPHIES OF VICTORY! AND THIS WOMAN ALMOST CONVINCED ME THAT I WOULD NEVER CAPTURE A MAN'S HEART! HOW COULD I... WHEN SHE HAD THEM ALL?"

SAIN COMICS

"TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED TO ME, YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT MY FAMILY... AND THERE'S LITTLE TO TELL! BY THE TIME I WAS THREE, DAD WAS A SHADOWY MEMORY... FOR MY MOTHER WAS THE MUCH-MARRIED, MUCH-DIVORCED **BIBI OLIVER!**"

PRETTY
MOMMY...
PRETTY...

STOP IT, MELISSA, YOU'LL CRUSH MY DRESS! GO TO SLEEP AT ONCE! I'M READY TO GO, IF YOU ARE, VINCENT!



"**I** WAS A REAL PROBLEM TO BIBI AS I GREW OLDER! THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR A GROWING CHILD IN HER LIFE, AND SO I WAS SENT TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS, CAMPS... ANYTHING TO KEEP ME FROM UNDER HER FEET!"

GOODBYE, MELISSA!
BE A GOOD GIRL!
I'LL COME AND SEE YOU... IF I CAN!

PLEASE TRY TO COME ON VISITING DAY, MOTH... BIBI!
ALL THE OTHER MOTHERS WILL BE THERE... PLEASE!



"SHE NEVER CAME TO SEE ME, OF COURSE! AND, THOUGH I WROTE TO HER TWICE A WEEK, SHE NEVER REPLIED!"

"WE MISS YOU VERY MUCH, BUT HOPE YOU ARE GROWING TALL AND STRONG..."

"WHEN YOU COME HOME, WE WILL BUY YOU THE PUPPY YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED..."



"AFTER THAT, SHE MADE SURE TO KEEP ME OUT OF THE WAY! I WAS LIKE A SMALL GHOST, SEEING BUT UNSEEN, HAUNTING MY OWN HOUSE!"

BIBI, DON'T YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER SOMEWHERE? I'VE NEVER MET HER!

OH, MELISSA... SHE'S JUST AN INFANT REALLY! MAY I HAVE A LIGHT, DARLING?



"THEY DID LAUGH AT ME! I WAS SO DIFFERENT-LOOKING, YOU SEE!"

GET A LOAD OF THAT GOON, MELISSA CORWIN! HOW'D YOU LIKE TO CART HER TO THE PROM?

SSSHH... SHE'LL HEAR YOU!



"MUCH AS BIBI HATED IT, I KEPT GROWING UP! HER FRIENDS BEGAN TO MAKE LITTLE REMARKS THAT INFURIATED HER..."

GOODNESS, BIBI, MELISSA WILL BE STEPPING INTO YOUR SHOES ONE OF THESE DAYS AND WOWING THE BOYS!

NONSENSE, GLORIA! WHY, SHE'S JUST A CHILD... A BABY!



"BY THE TIME I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, I REALIZED THAT BIBI WAS TRYING TO KEEP ME A BABY... SO THAT SHE WOULD APPEAR YOUNGER, MORE DESIRABLE!"

BUT, BIBI, THE OTHER GIRLS WILL LAUGH AT ME! PLEASE, CAN'T I HAVE A PLAID SKIRT AND A FUZZY SWEATER?

BIBI KNOWS BEST, DARLING! YOU LOOK PERFECTLY SWEET IN THAT LITTLE DRESS!



"AFTER GRADUATION, I HOPED BIBI WOULD GIVE ME A CHANCE! I WAS BRIGHT, HAD MADE GOOD GRADES... COULD BE A DAUGHTER TO BE PROUD OF! BUT BIBI WOULD HAVE NONE OF ME! THE OLDER I GOT, THE MORE I THREATENED HER YOUTH! AND SO..."

DARLING, GUESS WHAT I'VE REGISTERED YOU AT WOODSIDE COLLEGE! YOU LEAVE DAY AFTER TOMORROW... ISN'T THAT NICE?

YES... BIBI... VERY NICE! THANK YOU...



"WHAT A NIGHTMARE IT WAS --- THE MOMENT I STEPPED OFF onto the college station! I FELT LIKE A FREAK, MY FACE BARE OF MAKEUP, THOSE DETESTABLE BRAIDS, THAT SHORT, SILLY COAT---"



"IN THE DORM, I UNPACKED UNDER THE CURIOUS STARES OF MY ROOMMATES! THEY HAD SMART CLOTHES, PERFUMES, COSMETICS! I HAD A HALF-DOZEN PLAIN WOOL JUMPERS AND SOME TAILORED SHIRTS! THEY DIDN'T LAUGH, THOUGH---"



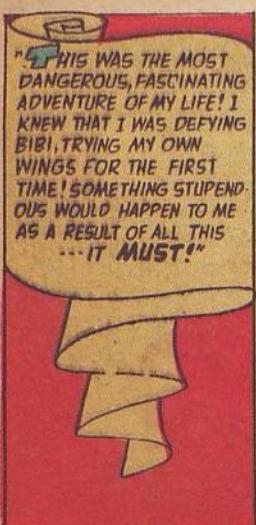
"THEY WERE POLITE TO ME, BUT NO MORE! I GUESS THEY FOUND IT HARD TO FIND THINGS TO SAY TO ME, FOR I WAS DIFFERENT, BUT ONE DAY..."



"RONNIE AND MARCIA EXCHANGED GLANCES! THEN, POUNCING ON ME, THEY SUGGESTED A PLAN SO DARING THAT I WAS PANIC-STRIKED!"



"THIS WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS, FASCINATING ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE! I KNEW THAT I WAS DEFYING BIBI, TRYING MY OWN WINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME! SOMETHING STUPENDOUS WOULD HAPPEN TO ME AS A RESULT OF ALL THIS --- IT MUST!"



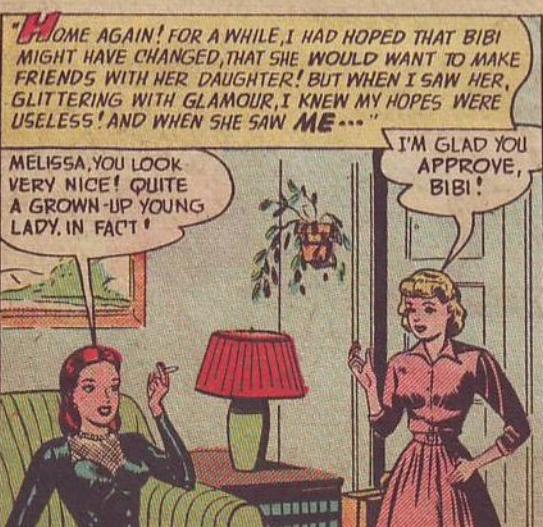
IT-- IS?

N--- NOW, DON'T BE NERVOUS, LISSA! THIS MAN CUTS HAIR ALL THE TIME!

STOP TWITCHING! I WANT TO GET THIS LIPSTICK OUTLINE STRAIGHT!

GIVE HER A LITTLE MASCARA, TOO!





"FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE CAME THE SOUNDS OF TINKLING GLASSES AND LAUGHTER! BIBI WAS GIVING ONE OF HER NEVER-ENDING PARTIES! SHE FACED ME, AS I FOUGHT DOWN MY RESENTMENT..."

ISN'T IT FUN, MELISSA? YOU HAVE A BRAND NEW JOB IN NEW YORK! YOU'RE TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

BUT, BIBI, I WANT TO STAY A WHILE...WITH YOU!

"BUT BIBI SAW TO IT THAT I WAS PACKED AND ON A PLANE TO NEW YORK EARLY THE NEXT MORNING! IN THE SWANKY OFFICES OF DEXTER AND WOODRUFF, I WAS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME..."

SO YOU'RE BIBI'S LITTLE GIRL! STRANGE...SOMEHOW, I'VE ALWAYS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL!

THAT'S BECAUSE MOTHER'S SO--SO YOUNG-LOOKING, MR. DEXTER!



"THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH ACCEPTED ME IMMEDIATELY AS ONE OF THEM! I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE ART DEPARTMENT WHERE I MET---HIM!"

I'M DON MAC GREGOR, YOUR ART DIRECTOR! DO I FRIGHTEN YOU?

NO, ODDLY ENOUGH YOU DON'T---NOT AT ALL!

"HE SHOWED ME AROUND, EXPLAINING THE SETUP... BUT I KEPT LOOKING AT THE CLEAR DEEP BLUE OF HIS EYES---THE CURVE OF HIS LIPS! WAS HE MARRIED? ENGAGED? HE ASKED ME A QUESTION..."



"NEW YORK WAS TURNING INTO HEAVEN! I FOUND A SMALL APARTMENT, MY VERY OWN, AND GAVE A HOUSEWARMING..."

LISSA, THIS PLACE IS ENCHANTING! YOU'RE REALLY A TERRIFIC GIRL!

FUNNY---THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING HER!

"DON STAYED AFTER THE OTHERS HAD LEFT---TO HELP CLEAR AWAY, HE SAID!"

LISSA---STOP THAT NONSENSE AT ONCE! YOU'RE JUST WASTING TIME, WHEN YOU COULD BE...

YES?



"GETTING KISSED! HE WHISPERED, AS I SEEMED TO MELT IN HIS ARMS, LOSING MYSELF IN HIS STRENGTH ... HIS NEARNESS ..."



"WE FORGOT THE DISHES ... FORGOT EVERYTHING BUT THE HAMMERING OF OUR HEARTS, THE WARMTH OF OUR ARMS, THE MAGIC OF WHISPERED LOVE WORDS AND FIERY KISSES ..."

DARLING ... DARLING ...
I'VE BEEN THINKING
OF THIS FROM THE
MOMENT I SAW
YOU!

I SHOULDN'T ADMIT
THIS, I KNOW, BUT ...
SO HAVE I!



"HOURS WENT BY ... THE FIRE DIED DOWN ... BUT DON AND I NEVER NOTICED! NOTHING AROUND US EXISTED! WE WERE TWO LOVERS, ALONE, AND OH, SO HAPPY TO BE TOGETHER ..."

I KNEW IT WOULD
BE LIKE THIS, DARLING
... **PERFECT!**

DON, YOU DON'T KNOW,
YOU DON'T **KNOW**...
HOW YOU'VE CHANGED
MY LIFE!



"ALTHOUGH DAWN WAS BREAKING WHEN DON LEFT, AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN VERY SLEEPY -- I WASN'T! AT LAST MELISSA CORWIN HAD GROWN UP! I LOVED AND WAS LOVED!"

NOW ... NOW I CAN GO HOME
... WITH DON! BIBI WILL WELCOME
ME NOW ... THAT I'M NO LONGER
A THREAT TO HER!



"DON LOVED THE IDEA OF GOING HOME WITH ME! HE WANTED TO MEET MY MOTHER AND MAKE A FORMAL DECLARATION OF HIS LOVE!"

TELL ME MORE ABOUT
YOUR MOTHER, ANGEL!
DOES SHE BAKE A
MEAN APPLE PIE?

WELL ... NOT
EXACTLY, DON!
MIXING A MEAN
MARTINI IS
MORE IN HER
LINE!



"WE ARRIVED IN A FLURRY OF GAIETY AND FUN! BIBI WAS GIVING A HOUSE PARTY!"

THIS IS DON MAC GREGOR,
BIBI! HE'S THAT EXTRA-SPECIAL GUY I WROTE
YOU ABOUT!

AND FOR ONCE,
DARLING, YOU WERE
SO RIGHT! HE IS
*** EXTRA-SPECIAL!



"**S**COLD TELL THAT DON WAS ASTONISHED WHEN HE SAW BIBI! SHE WAS HARDLY THE 'MOTHER' HE HAD EXPECTED TO SEE! THEN TOO, HE WAS FLATTERED BY THE FLATTERY IN HER EYES! THEY LIKED EACH OTHER... AND THAT WAS A GOOD START, I FELT! HOW WRONG I WAS!"

DARLING, BE ESPECIALLY NICE TO NORMAN MITCHELL... I'M PLANNING TO MARRY HIM SOON!

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, BIBI! THAT'S GOOD NEWS!



"**N**ORMAN MITCHELL SEEMED TO BE VERY NICE... NOT THE USUAL RUN OF BIBI'S MONEY-MAD FLAMES! BUT AS I CHATTED WITH HIM, MY EYES KEPT WANDERING ACROSS THE ROOM... TO BIBI, GETTING A LIGHT FROM DON... HER GLANCES SHOULDERING..."

YES, MR. MITCHELL, DON AND I HOPE TO BE MARRIED VERY SOON!

START CALLING ME NORMAN, MELISSA... WE'LL ALL BE IN THE SAME FAMILY, YOU KNOW!



"**T**HE FAINT STIRRINGS OF DOUBT IN MY HEART WERE GROWING... GROWING AS I SAW BIBI LEAN CLOSE TO DON, WHISPER SOMETHING THAT MADE HIM ROAR! I COULDN'T REMEMBER DON'S EVER HAVING LAUGHED LIKE THAT... WITH ME..."

LET ME GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK, MELISSA! WHAT'LL IT BE?

OH, WHAT?... YES, THANK YOU, NORMAN... ANYTHING... ANYTHING AT ALL!



"**T**HEY... THEY WERE LEAVING THE ROOM TOGETHER! I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT... BUT I KNEW... I KNEW... THAT BIBI WAS TAKING DON FROM ME... PROVING TO HERSELF AND TO EVERYONE THAT SHE WAS STILL FATALLY ATTRACTIVE... MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN HER OWN DAUGHTER!"

I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THEM... I SHOULDN'T... BUT I MUST...



"**I**T HAPPENED THEN! THE FEAR, THE SHAME, THE HATE, THE BITTERNESS THAT BIBI HAD MADE MY PORTION... ALL OF THESE WELLED UP IN A SURGE OF TERRIFYING EMOTION! DON... DON... MY HEART CONTRACTED WITHIN ME AS I REALIZED WHAT I HAD LOST..."



"**I** WOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED TO THIS! I WOULD FIGHT BACK AS I HAD NEVER FOUGHT BEFORE! BIBI HAD TAKEN MY CHILDHOOD AND WRECKED IT... WOULD SHE... COULD SHE DO THE SAME THING NOW?"

I WON'T LET HER GET AWAY WITH THIS! THIS TIME... I'M GOING TO BE REVENGED!



"**S**HE HAD ALWAYS PUSHED ME INTO THE BACKGROUND, TRIED TO MAKE ME LOOK RIDICULOUS! IT WOULDN'T WORK ANY MORE! I WAS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL! I HAD THE WEAPONS TO STRIKE BACK! BUT HOW? SUDDENLY, I SAW NORMAN, WITH A DRINK IN HIS HAND, LOOKING FOR ME... AND I KNEW..."

OH, NORMAN, YOU'RE SWEET! LET'S FIND A QUIET CORNER AND... RELAX TOGETHER!

THAT'S THE BEST OFFER I'VE HAD IN YEARS!

"**I**SAT CLOSE TO HIM, WOOGING HIM WITH MY EYES, MY SMILES! I COULD SEE BIBI, CALMLY TIDYING HER LIPSTICK! THEN I SAW DON SEARCHING THE ROOM FOR ME! HE CAME TO ASK ME TO DANCE..."

LISSA, WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING?

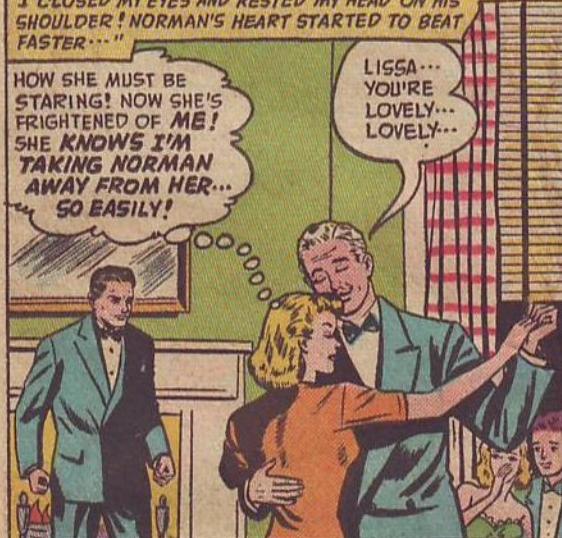
SO SORRY, DON, I'VE PROMISED TO DANCE WITH NO ONE BUT NORMAN... ALL EVENING! YOU DON'T MIND?



"**R**EACHING UP, I RUBBED A SMUDGE OF LIPSTICK FROM DON'S MOUTH! AND THEN, SLIPPING INTO NORMAN'S ARMS, I CLOSED MY EYES AND RESTED MY HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER! NORMAN'S HEART STARTED TO BEAT FASTER..."

HOW SHE MUST BE STARING! NOW SHE'S FRIGHTENED OF ME! SHE KNOWS I'M TAKING NORMAN AWAY FROM HER... SO EASILY!

LISSA... YOU'RE LOVELY... LOVELY...



"**Y**ES, IT WAS EASY! I TURNED HIS HEAD BY IMITATING ALL THE WILES THAT BIBI USED SO WELL... ONLY I USED THEM BETTER! AND THEN, TO MAKE MY REVENGE SWEETER AND COMPLETER, I SUGGESTED TO NORMAN THAT WE REST... IN THE LIBRARY..."



"**W**ITHOUT WAITING FOR A PROPOSAL FROM NORMAN, I BECKONED BIBI INTO THE LIBRARY! DON CAME, TOO. GOOD! MY ANNOUNCEMENT ELECTRIFIED THEM AS I HELD NORMAN'S HAND POSSESSIVELY AND... SMILING --- SAID..."

I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BIBI, BUT YOU UNDERSTAND THINGS LIKE THIS SO WELL! NORMAN AND I LOVE EACH OTHER! WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!

YOU---YOU--- NORMAN, IS THIS TRUE?



"**M**Y NURSERY DAYS WERE OVER! I HAD WON... OVER BIBI! BUT IN THE SILENCE THAT FOLLOWED, IN THE SHARP LOOK OF PAIN IN DON'S EYES, IN THE SUDDEN FEELING OF TERROR THAT SWEEP OVER ME... THERE WAS NO TRIUMPH!"

WHAT AM I DOING? I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND! I DON'T LOVE NORMAN... I DON'T WANT HIM! I LOVE DON...



"THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE MONSTROUS! I HAD DONE THIS...! THREE LIVES WOULD BE EMBITTERED BY MY ACT! FOR IF I MARRIED NORMAN, WE WOULD BE MISERABLE! AS FOR BIBI, HER EGO HAD BEEN SMASHED AND SHE WOULD BE SHATTERED ENTIRELY! I COULDN'T STAND BEING INSIDE THAT HOUSE..."



"THE WIND WAS BITING AND THE ROADS WERE RIBBONS OF ICE! MY TEAR-FILLED EYES SAW THEM AS GLARING STREAKS, WINDING AND TWISTING TREACHEROUSLY. WHY DIDN'T I SURRENDER TO THEM, THESE GLASSY ROADS THAT WOULD TAKE ME AWAY... FAR AWAY..."

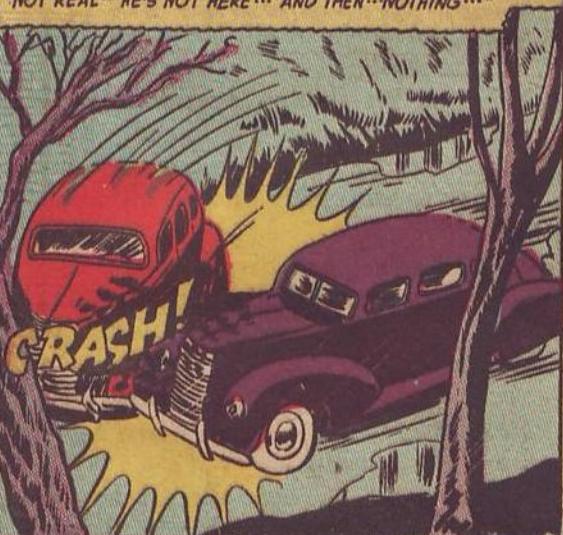
MORE SPEED
...FASTER...
FASTER!



"I LONGED FOR OBLIVION, FORGETFULNESS! AS THE CAR SHOT FORWARD, I SAW A CLUMP OF TREES UP AHEAD... IN MY PATH..."



"A CAR CRASHED INTO MINE... 'FUNNY... WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?', I WONDERED. THEN I HEARD DON'S VOICE. IT'S NOT REAL... HE'S NOT HERE... 'AND THEN... NOTHING...' "



"I AWOKE TO THE TOUCH OF DON'S KISSES, TO HIS MURMURED ENDEARMENTS! THEN I SAW HER... BIBI! HER FACE WAS STRIPPED OF GLAMOUR, CRUMPLED WITH TEARS! AND SHE SPOKE TO ME... AS A MOTHER WOULD SPEAK!"



"THEY LEFT US ALONE TOGETHER! YES, I HAD WON... MORE THAN I EVER DREAMED OF! BIBI WAS REALLY MY MOTHER NOW... AND AS FOR DON... WE WENT INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS AND CLUNG... OUR KISS A PROMISE AND A FULFILLMENT... OF LOVE!"



Escape INTO ROMANCE

IT was a badly-paying job, with long hours and hard work required of her, but Ellen needed it. So urgent was her need, that she pretended not to notice the sly, admiring leers directed at her by Mr. Crombie, the office manager.

When he had hired her, Mr. Crombie had looked at her appraisingly, noting her rounded figure, her lovely mouth and thick, curling hair. Ellen had winced under the examination, but it *was* a job. She did not care for Mr. Crombie's looks at all. He was a thick-set, middle-aged man who slicked his hair and his shallow eyes were never still. His voice was far too oily as he asked her about her experience, her ability to work this or that office machine.

When he hired her, Ellen resolved to do her work quietly, stay out of his way, and allow no opportunities for advances from him. For one week, she was successful, leaving the office promptly, happy to escape Mr. Crombie's meaningful stares.

But one afternoon, Ellen knew she was trapped. Mr. Crombie, explaining that there was a sudden heavy rush of weekend mail, asked her to stay "a bit later." She would be paid overtime, he assured her, and would not be kept later than necessary. Ellen didn't dare refuse, for she wanted to keep her job. And Mr. Crombie *did* sound business-like when he asked her!

Desks were slammed shut, the time clock was punched again and again, and in a few minutes, the office was deserted. Only Ellen and Mr. Crombie remained in the gathering dusk, surrounded by unaccustomed silence.

Her heart palpitating with fear, Ellen took her shorthand book and said,

"I'm ready for the correspondence, Mr. Crombie."

Mr. Crombie smiled. "Don't be a silly child," he said. "How's for a little drink first? I've got the key to the bar."

Ellen refused, politely, saying that she was anxious to finish her work since her mother would be waiting dinner for her. Mr. Crombie smiled again. Sliding an arm around her waist, he said, "*I'll* buy you dinner, my dear . . . later! But *now* . . ."

As his face came towards Ellen, and she realized that he was about to kiss her, panic ran through her veins. Desperately, she tried to pull away, to free herself from his loathesome touch. But Mr. Crombie was a strong man and his grip tightened. Ellen stifled a scream and then, as if by magic, Mr. Crombie's grip gave way and he was flung to the floor.

"Sorry you've been annoyed," someone said. "I happened to be working rather late tonight, I'm glad to say. I'm Alan Craig."

Ellen recognized the name. He was a junior vice-president, a tall, handsome man, whose face at the moment was tensed in anger. He stared contemptuously at Mr. Crombie, who suddenly became just a fat, ridiculous-looking man sitting on the floor. "If you don't mind, I'll see you home," he said to Ellen. "You've had a shock."

In the taxi, Ellen found she was trembling. Reassuringly, Alan Craig held her close, protecting her, soothing her. His touch was different, so different, Ellen thought, welcoming his arms around her. Alan felt her response, for he kissed her, lightly at first. Ellen's willing lips answered, for her heart told her it was love . . . *for keeps!*

MISTAKES about MALES

ONE OF THE WORST MISTAKES A GIRL CAN MAKE IS TO THINK THAT ALL MEN ARE ALIKE... AND THAT SHE NEEDN'T BOTHER TREATING A MAN AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AS SOMEONE SPECIAL! ACTUALLY, NO TWO MEN ARE ALIKE... AND IF YOU WANT TO BE POPULAR AND HAVE MEN THINK THAT YOU'RE SOMEONE SPECIAL, YOU'D BETTER ADAPT YOUR TECHNIQUE TO THE PERSONALITY OF EACH OF THE MEN WHO DATE YOU... SO THAT YOU'LL NEVER MAKE THESE MISTAKES ABOUT MALES!



The first mistake is to have a single line of patter that you use on all the males you know! For example, if you have a light-hearted, bantering "line", you'll find that some men take it in the same half-serious, joking manner...

You know, you're handsome enough to be in the movies, Chet... I don't think there's **ANY** girl who can resist you!

Sure... there's probably no girl who can resist running away from me!



BUT ANOTHER MAN MIGHT TAKE IT ANOTHER WAY WHEN HE HEARS YOU HANDING HIM THAT LINE!

So you can't resist me, eh? Well, let's find out!

Oh... STOP!

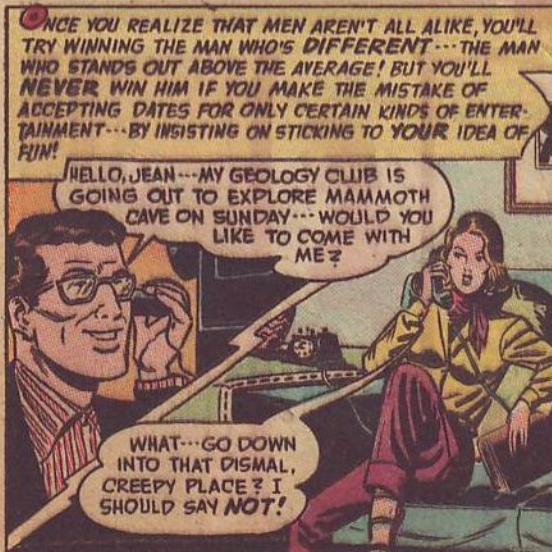
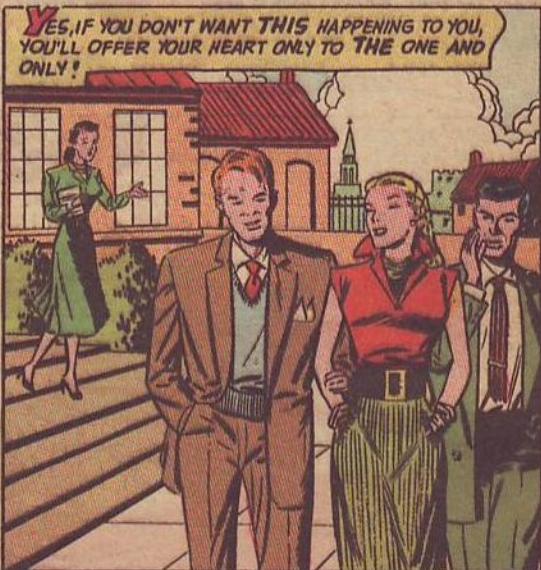
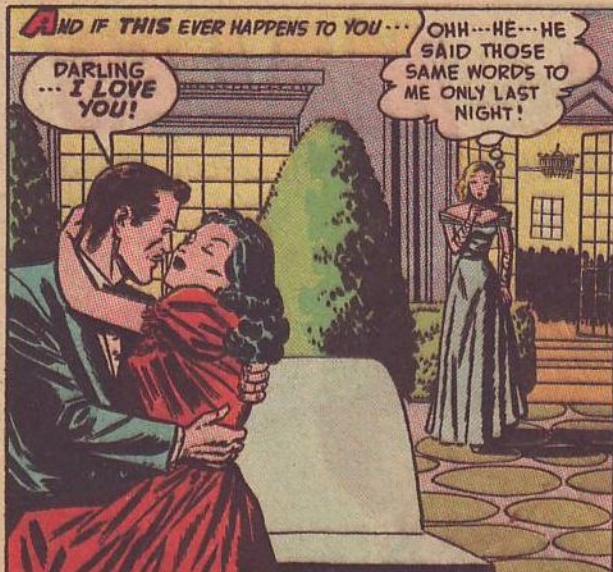


ANOTHER MISTAKE IS TO DRESS THE SAME WAY FOR THE SAME KIND OF DATES WITH DIFFERENT MEN! SPORTY STUART MIGHT LIKE YOU IN THIS KIND OF CLOTHES WHEN HE ASKS YOU TO GO FOR A WALK WITH HIM...

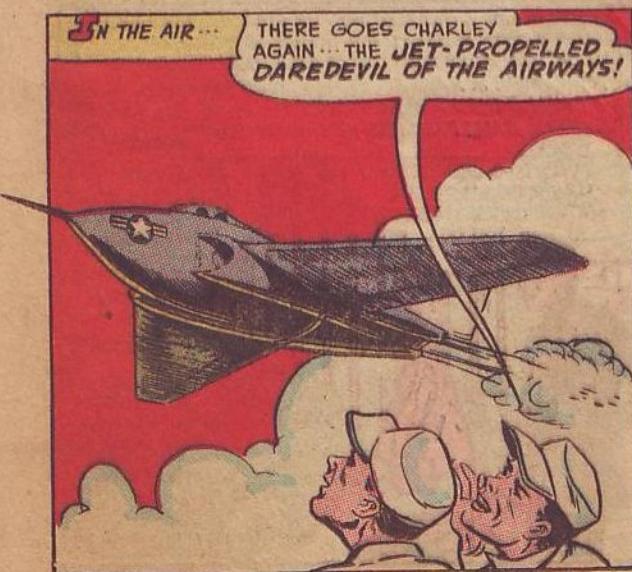


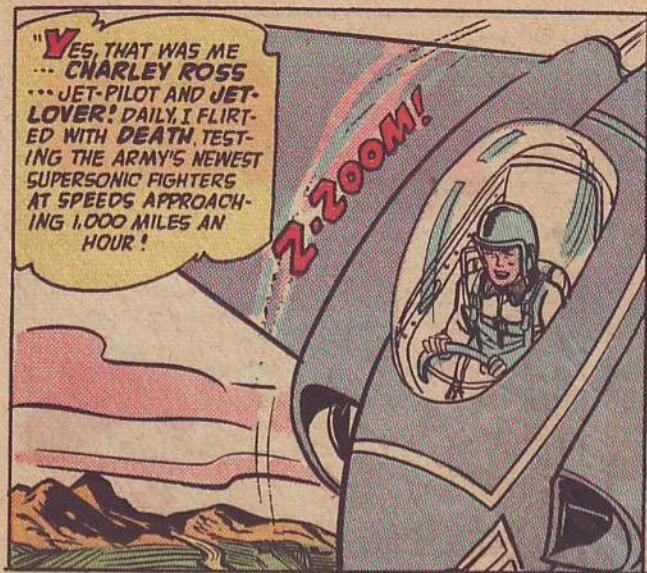
BUT CONSERVATIVE CLYDE MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT THE KIND OF CLOTHES SUITABLE FOR A WALK--AND YOU CAN BET HE'LL BE TAKING A WALK RIGHT OUT OF YOUR LIFE!





Jet-Propelled ROMEO





"YES, THAT WAS ME
CHARLEY ROSS
...JET PILOT AND JET-
LOVER! DAILY, I FLIRT-
ED WITH DEATH, TEST-
ING THE ARMY'S NEWEST
SUPERSONIC FIGHTERS
AT SPEEDS APPROACH-
ING 1,000 MILES AN
HOUR!"

"AND AT NIGHT? GIRLS...AND THE MORE,
THE MERRIER!"

"OH, MAJOR ROSS...
YOU PROMISED ME
THE FIRST DANCE,
REMEMBER?
HE COULDN'T
HAVE...CHARLEY
PROMISED IT TO
ME! DIDN'T
YOU...DARLING?"

EASY, GIRLS...
EASY! THERE'S
ENOUGH OF ME
TO GO AROUND!"

"I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHAT MADE THE GIRLS SWARM ALL OVER
ME...BUT WHETHER IT WAS THE UNIFORM, THE GLAMOR OF MY JOB, OR
JUST PLAIN CHARLEY ROSS THAT ATTRACTED THEM...I SURE
LOVED IT!"

"YES, THERE WERE DOZENS OF GIRLS IN MY LIFE! I
COULDN'T RESIST KISSING EACH NEW ONE, BUT MY
CONSCIENCE WOULD ALWAYS SPEAK UP!"

"OH, CHARLEY...I...I'VE NEVER BEEN
KISSED LIKE THAT BEFORE! IT...IT
WOULD BE SO EASY TO LET MYSELF
FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!"

THEN YOU MUSTN'T LET YOUR-
SELF, HONEY! YOU KNOW HOW FOND
I AM OF YOU...AND SINCE I DON'T
WANT YOU HURT, I'VE GOT TO TELL
YOU THAT I CAN'T EVER THINK
OF MARRIAGE!"

"YOU SEE, JET TEST-PILOTS ARE EXPENDABLE
...THE AIR FORCE FIGURED OUT THAT EACH
ONE HAS A LIFE EXPECTANCY OF JUST A FEW
MONTHS! SO THAT ASKING YOU TO BE MY WIFE
WOULD BE THE SAME AS ASKING YOU TO BE
MY WIDOW!"

I...I KNOW THAT, DARLING
...THE OTHER GIRLS WARNED
ME YOU WEREN'T THE MARRY-
ING KIND! BUT I DON'T CARE...
AS LONG AS I CAN STAY IN
YOUR ARMS AWHILE! KISS
ME AGAIN...PLEASE!"

"CAN YOU BLAME A GUY LIKE ME FOR STEALING LOVE AND
KISSES WHEREVER HE COULD, FOR TRYING TO SQUEEZE THE
LAST OUNCE OF ENJOYMENT OUT OF A LIFE THAT COULD END
AT ANY MOMENT IN A MID-AIR EXPLOSION OR A FLAMING
CRASH? WELL, I DIDN'T BLAME MYSELF...UNTIL EILEEN
CARLSON CAME BACK INTO MY LIFE ONE DAY!"

PARDON ME, I...I UNDERSTAND
THAT MAJOR CHARLES ROSS
IS STATIONED HERE! CAN
YOU TELL
ME..."

EILEEN!
WHAT ON EARTH
ARE YOU DO-
ING HERE?"

EILEEN --- MY HOME-TOWN SWEETHEART --- THE LOVE-STRUCK GIRL WHOM I'D PROPOSED TO WAY BACK WHEN I WAS A ROMANTIC ADOLESCENT --- THE GIRL WHOM I HADN'T EVEN WRITTEN TO SINCE I'D BECOME A TEST-PILOT!"

H---HELLO, CHARLES! I---I HADN'T HEARD FROM YOU IN SO LONG, THAT I BECAME WORRIED AND DECIDED TO COME HERE AND SEE IF YOU WERE ALL RIGHT!

I'M OKAY, EILEEN --- BUT GOSH, YOU MUST BE TIRED AND HUNGRY AFTER THAT LONG TRIP FROM PLAINVILLE! COME ON --- I'LL TAKE YOU TO DINNER!

"**A**gainst my own wishes, I felt myself being drawn once again to the soft, shy, sensitive girl who had been my first love --- in the first wild flush of my youth!"

I...I MISSED YOU SO, CHARLES... AND I WAS TERRIBLY HURT WHEN YOU STOPPED WRITING ME!

I HAD TO STOP, SWEET-HEART! I WANTED YOU TO FORGET ME, TO BE FREE TO FIND SOME-ONE WHO COULD GIVE YOU A FUTURE YOU COULD LOOK FORWARD TO!

"**A**sudden surge of pity flooded over me as I saw how deeply my words had wounded her! Determined to make up for it by proving that I **STILL** cared, I took her to the most romantic spot I knew --- Point Lookout!"

SHE -- SHE'S SO PATHETICALLY SWEET! WHY SHOULDN'T I KISS HER... JUST FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE?

"**H**er lips melted against mine --- and in an instant, I was reliving the old, rapturous infatuation! Caught up in the magic spell of that kiss, I thought for a moment that I was young, twenty, and in love again --- and the old, familiar words tumbled out before I could stop them!"

EILEEN, DARLING... I LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU!

OH, CHARLES... I'VE LIVED JUST TO HEAR THOSE WORDS!

FOR YEARS I'VE KNOWN MY LIFE WAS WORTH NOTHING WITHOUT YOU --- AND IT TOOK ALL OF MY COURAGE TO COME TO YOU THIS WAY! WE CAN BE MARRIED NOW, IF YOU LEAVE YOUR JOB! TEST-PILOT DUTY IS ONLY VOLUNTARY --- YOU CAN LEAVE IT --- FOR ME! :

WHAT? I... I COULDN'T DO THAT, EILEEN!

I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH MYSELF AGAIN IF I SHIRKED MY DUTY JUST WHEN THE JET TEST-SERVICE NEEDS ME MOST! THE OTHER TEST-PILOTS HAVE BEEN CRACKING UP RIGHT AND LEFT ON THESE NEW, EXPERIMENTAL MODELS --- THERE AREN'T VERY MANY OF US LEFT, WHO HAVE THE SKILL AND EXPERIENCE TO HANDLE THESE NEW SUPERSONIC JOBS! I CAN'T QUIT AND LET MY COUNTRY DOWN --- NOT EVEN FOR LOVE!



"**E**SAW THE WILD, FRANTIC EXPRESSION ON HER FACE...THE LOOK OF RISING HYSTERIA IN HER EYES...BUT I KNEW I COULDN'T LET PITY SWAY ME IN MY GRIM DETERMINATION NOT TO GIVE IN TO HER IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS OF LOVE!"

I HATE TO SAY THIS, EILEEN...**BUT WE MUSTN'T EVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!** YOU'VE BECOME TOO EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED WITH ME...IT'LL BE BETTER FOR YOU IN THE LONG RUN..."

YOU...YOU NEVER REALLY LOVED ME IF YOU CAN SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! BUT I...I CAN'T GO ON LIVING WITHOUT YOU...IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I NEVER SAW YOU AGAIN...**NEVER... NEVER...!**

"**E** SHOULD HAVE BEEN WARNED BY THE NOTE IN HER VOICE, BY THE DESPERATE, TORMENTED LOOK IN HER FACE! BUT BEFORE I KNEW WHAT SHE WAS ABOUT TO DO..."

EILEEN...COME BACK HERE!



EILEEN...
OH, NO...
NO!

"**H**ORROR FLOODED OVER ME... STARK, OVERWHELMING HORROR... AND I SANK TO MY KNEES UNDER THE TERRIBLE WEIGHT OF GUILT THAT FILLED MY SOUL!"

SHE...SHE KILLED HERSELF... BECAUSE OF **ME**! NO...**I KILLED HER**... IT WAS ALL **MY FAULT**! MY KISSES AND WORDS OF LOVE GAVE HER HOPE AGAIN... AND SHE COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE THAT HOPE SHATTERED! OH, DEAR LORD... DON'T EVER FORGIVE ME...DON'T EVER LET ME FORGET MY GUILT UNTIL I PAY FOR THE MURDER I COMMITTED TONIGHT!

"**A**LL THAT TORTURED, SLEEPLESS NIGHT, MY MIND WAS WRACKED WITH THE IDEA OF PUNISHING MYSELF...**SOMEHOW**! THE NEXT DAY, WHILE TESTING A NEW JET..."

IT...IT WOULD BE SO EASY...JUST A FLICK OF THE WRIST WOULD SEND THE PLANE DOWN IN A FLAMING CRASH... ALONG WITH **ME**! BUT THAT WOULD BE A **COWARD'S WAY OUT**...I'D BE RUNNING OUT ON MY DUTY TO MY COUNTRY...

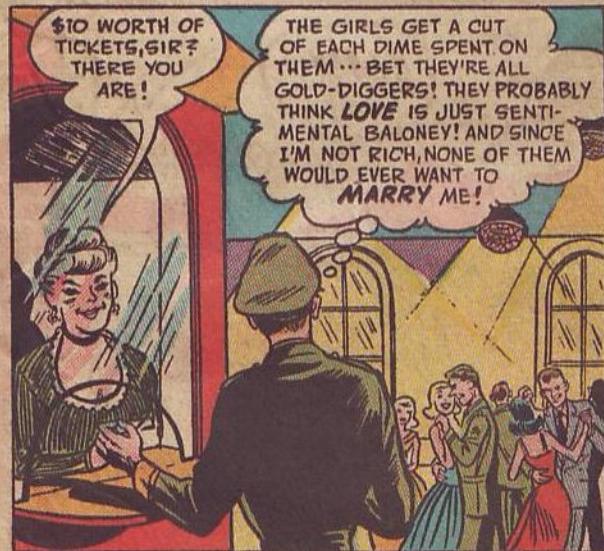
"**L**ATER, A GRIM DETERMINATION WAS BORN..."

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO IF I'M NOT TO BE A COWARD...I'VE GOT TO KEEP ON BEING A TEST-PILOT... WHILE KEEPING LOVE COMPLETELY OUT OF MY LIFE! I'M **THROUGH** WITH ROMANCE...I'LL NEVER AGAIN MAKE LOVE TO A GIRL AND TAKE A CHANCE OF HURTING HER BECAUSE MY JOB PREVENTS ME FROM MARRYING HER! I **SWEAR** THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER HAVE TO GO THROUGH WHAT EILEEN DID!





"I HEARD THEIR WHISPERS... AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, I KNEW HOW RIGHT THEY WERE! LONELINESS AND EMOTIONAL TENSION MADE ME AS JITTERY AS A GREEN PILOT ON HIS FIRST JET SOLO... AND I REALIZED I WAS GOING AGAINST MY OWN NATURE IN DENYING MYSELF COMPANIONSHIP! THEN, ONE DAY IN TOWN, THE PERFECT SOLUTION CAME!"



"COMPLETELY ENTRANCED BY THE SHY SURPRISE IN HER EYES, I LIFTED HER TO HER FEET! I HAD A GIRL IN MY ARMS ONCE AGAIN---EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THAT HER NAIVE, DEMURE SHYNESS WAS JUST AN ACT!"

"YOU ACTED JUST LIKE A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL BEING ASKED FOR THE FIRST DANCE AT HER PROM! WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO, MAKE ME THINK THIS WAS YOUR FIRST DAY HERE?"

"WHY, HOW... HOW DID YOU GUESS I'M NEW HERE? THIS IS MY FIRST DAY!"



"MY NAME'S JUNE WHITBY! I CAME TO THE CITY JUST LAST WEEK, LOOKING FOR WORK---AND WHEN I SAW AN AD IN THE PAPERS ASKING FOR GIRLS WHO LIKED TO DANCE, I APPLIED HERE FOR THE JOB! I DO LIKE TO DANCE---BUT I... I NEVER ENJOYED IT SO MUCH AS **RIGHT NOW!**"

"NOW SHE'S TURNING ON THE CHARM, AFRAID THAT MAYBE I WON'T SPEND THE WHOLE HUNDRED DANCES WITH HER! SHE'S LYING, OF COURSE---BUT SHE'S **STILL** WONDERFUL TO HOLD!"



"Then, a hundred entrancing dances later..."

I GUESS IT'S CLOSING TIME---HOW ABOUT LETTING ME DRIVE YOU HOME?

WELL, WE---WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO MEET ANY OF OUR PARTNERS OUTSIDE THE BALLROOM---BUT I... I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOU!



PLEASE---WE'VE JUST MET---WE HARDLY KNOW EACH OTHER! LET ME GO!

DON'T PULL THAT MODEST, NAIVE ACT ON ME, BABY! YOU'VE PROBABLY TRIED IT ON A HUNDRED OTHERS!



"I KNEW SHE WAS LYING AGAIN---SHE MUST HAVE DATED DOZENS OF HER DANCING PARTNERS BEFORE! BUT HER SHEER LOVELINESS AND ALLURE MADE ME FORGET HER DECEPTIONS!"

JUNE, I HAVEN'T KISSED A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE YOU FOR SO LONG, I'VE ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHAT IT'S LIKE!

NO---YOU... YOU MUSTN'T!



"LADY WORDS SEEMED TO TOUCH OFF SOME FRANTIC STRENGTH AND FURY IN HER, FOR A MOMENT LATER SHE HAD ESCAPED MY REACHING ARMS!"

HEY... COME BACK HERE!

I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!



"**I** TRIED FORGETTING JUNE WHITBY, BUT FOUND THAT I COULDN'T KEEP HER LOVELY FACE OUT OF MY THOUGHTS AND DREAMS...AND I KNEW THAT I'D HAVE TO SEE HER AGAIN!"

SHE'S JUST PLAYING HARD TO GET! SHE MUST HAVE A COLD, CALCULATING HEART TO PUT ON AN ACT LIKE THAT! BUT THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF GIRL I WANT---THE KIND WHO COULDN'T BE HURT THE WAY EILEEN WAS!"



"The next night..."

YOU! I... I DON'T WANT TO DANCE WITH YOU!

BUT YOU WILL...OR I'LL SPEAK TO THE MANAGEMENT AND HAVE YOU FIRED FOR REFUSING TO DANCE WITH A PAYING CUSTOMER!



"**S**HE HESITATED...BUT GAVE IN! AND THEN I PILED ON ALL THE CHARM THAT I'D DEVELOPED THROUGH DATING DOZENS OF GIRLS---A CHARM THAT HAD NEVER FAILED BEFORE---AND DIDN'T FAIL ME THIS TIME!"

I'M SORRY I WAS SO RUDE LAST NIGHT...I DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK, WORRYING WHETHER YOU'D ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES OR NOT! IF---IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE ME, I'LL GET DOWN ON MY KNEES RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF THIS CROWD AND BEG YOU!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT! I COULDN'T STAY MAD AT YOU NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED!



"**I** BEGAN SPENDING ALL MY FREE TIME WITH JUNE...AND SLOWLY, I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT HER SWEET, SHY, MODEST CHARM---HER WARM, SINCERE, UNAFFECTED MANNER---WASN'T AN ACT---THAT IT WAS ALL GENUINE! YES, JUNE WHITBY SEEMED TO BE THE KIND OF GIRL ANY MAN WOULD BE PROUD TO MARRY!"



"**A**ND THEN, AT A CARNIVAL I TOOK HER TO ONE DAY, I DECIDED TO FIND OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL WHETHER SHE WAS NAIVE AND INNOCENT AS SHE APPEARED TO BE!"

HER KISS WILL TELL ME WHETHER SHE'S A PERFECT ACTRESS OR WHETHER SHE'S TRULY NEW AT THIS SORT OF THING! I'VE KISSED TOO MANY GIRLS TO BE FOOLED BY HER!



"**C**AUGHT BY SURPRISE, SHE RESISTED FOR A MOMENT...AND THEN HER LIPS MELTED AGAINST MINE WITH SUCH AN EAGER, NAIVE, UNTUTORED ARDOR THAT I KNEW THIS WAS HER FIRST KISS...AND MY FIRST TRUE LOVE!"

JUNE... I LOVE YOU!
OH, DARLING... I... I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, TOO!



"BUT AT THE HEIGHT OF OUR EMBRACE, I SUDDENLY SAW THE HORRIBLE VISION OF WHAT I'D DONE TO ANOTHER GIRL WHO HAD ONCE LOVED ME---AND I KNEW I DIDN'T DARE LEAD JUNE ON AND GIVE HER ANY HOPES OF MARRIAGE, LEST SHE TOO BE HURT!"

DARLING---WHAT---WHAT'S WRONG ---WHY ARE YOU BREAKING AWAY?

JUNE, WE...WE **MUSTN'T** LOVE EACH OTHER...BECAUSE OURS IS A LOVE THAT CAN NEVER BE! I TOLD YOU THAT I'M A JET TEST-PILOT, THAT I'VE BEEN PHENOMENALLY LUCKY IN HAVING OUTLIVED ALL THE OTHER JET-JOCKEYS WHO STARTED THE SAME TIME I DID...THEY'RE ALL DEAD OR CRIPPLED, AND **MY TURN WILL COME ANY DAY!**

"THEN I POURED OUT THE WHOLE AWFUL STORY ABOUT EILEEN---AND HER HORRIBLE DEATH!"

SO YOU SEE HOW I ALREADY HURT ONE GIRL---AND I COULDN'T EVER BEAR TO HAVE YOU HURT THAT BADLY! THAT'S WHY I CAN'T MARRY YOU---I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE A SORROWING WIDOW A WEEK OR A MONTH AFTER OUR HONEYMOON!

BUT I'M NOT

EILEEN, DARLING!
SHE DIDN'T LOVE YOU ENOUGH TO GAMBLE WITH LIFE AND LOVE...SHE WAS MORE IN LOVE WITH **HERSELF**, LIKE A THWARTED CHILD WHO THINKS OF GETTING EVEN WITH THE WORLD BY KILLING HERSELF!

I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO SHIRK YOUR DUTY AND QUIT THE JET SERVICE---AND I'D RATHER BE MARRIED TO YOU FOR **ONE HOUR** AND HAVE THE MEMORY OF AT LEAST **THAT HAPPINESS**, THAN BE MARRIED TO ANYONE ELSE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!

DON'T YOU SEE, DEAREST? I'M ASKING FOR A BIT OF HAPPINESS AND BLISS **NOW**, SO THAT IF THE WORST HAPPENS, I'LL AT LEAST HAVE SOME **MEMORIES** TO SUSTAIN ME IN MY HOUR OF LOSS!

YOU---YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! I KNOW WHAT DEATH IS LIKE, HOW IT WOUNDS AND SCARS THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND! I---I **CAN'T** LET YOU WASTE YOUR WHOLE LIFE AWAY AS A WIDOW!



THIS---THIS IS **GOODBYE**, JUNE!

NO...WAIT
...LISTEN
TO ME---



"I DIDN'T LISTEN TO HER, AND I COULDN'T LET MYSELF THINK ABOUT HER! THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO DROWN THE SICK GRIEF AND ANGUISH THAT WAS FLOODING MY HEART..."

I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH, MAJOR
AREN'T YOU SCHEDULED TO TAKE A PLANE UP IN AN HOUR?

YEAH...BUT
GIVE ME ANOTHER DRINK---TWO MORE
TEN MORE!



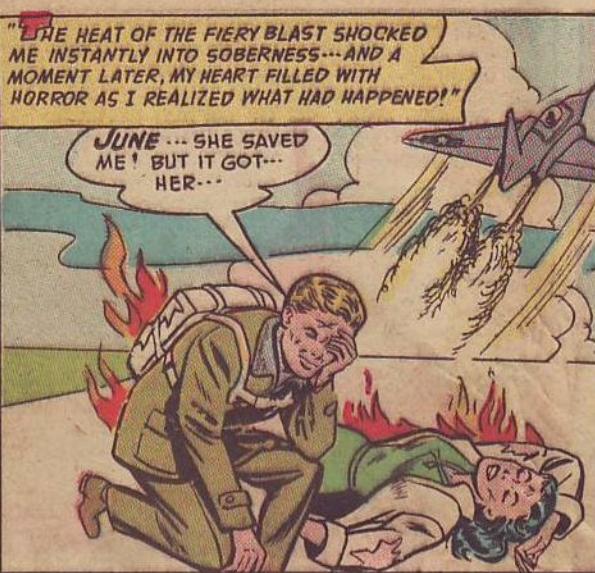


"THE HEAT OF THE FIERY BLAST SHOCKED ME INSTANTLY INTO SOBERNESS...AND A MOMENT LATER, MY HEART FILLED WITH HORROR AS I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED!"

JUNE...SHE SAVED ME! BUT IT GOT...HER...

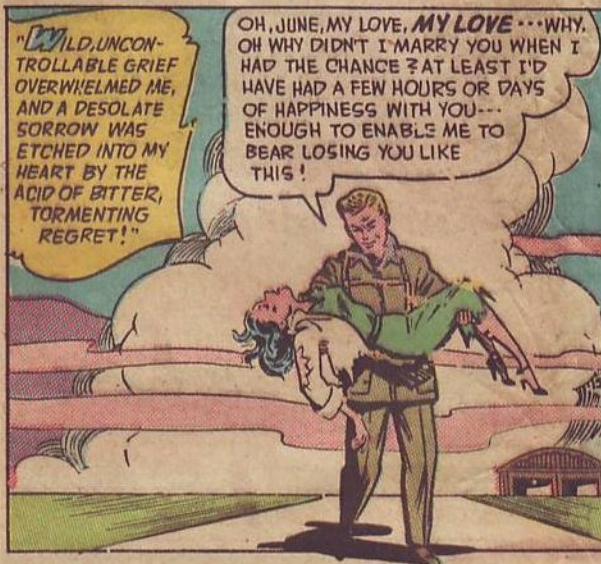
"FRANTICALLY, I SLAPPED AT THE FLAMES WITH MY BARE HANDS, IGNORING THE PAIN IN MY DESPERATE HASTE! BUT WHEN I'D FINISHED, I FOUND OUT TO MY UTTER HORROR THAT IT WAS ALL IN VAIN!"

HER...HER PULSE...IT'S STOPPED! SHE...SHE'S DEAD!



"WILD, UNCONTROLLABLE GRIEF OVERWHELMED ME, AND A DESOLATE SORROW WAS ETCHED INTO MY HEART BY THE ACID OF BITTER, TORMENTING REGRET!"

OH, JUNE, MY LOVE, **MY LOVE**...WHY, OH WHY DIDN'T I MARRY YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE? AT LEAST I'D HAVE HAD A FEW HOURS OR DAYS OF HAPPINESS WITH YOU...ENOUGH TO ENABLE ME TO BEAR LOSING YOU LIKE THIS!



"OTHERS RAN UP AND TOOK JUNE'S BODY INTO THE BASE HOSPITAL, AND I STUMBED AFTER THEM IN HEART-WRACKING DESPAIR, KNOWING THERE WAS NO HOPE! BUT THEN..."

I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS, MAJOR...YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T FEEL HER PULSE BECAUSE YOUR FINGERS HAD BEEN BURNED IN SLAPPING OUT THE FLAMES ON HER CLOTHES! SHE'S JUST COME OUT OF A STATE OF SHOCK, BUT SHE'S **ALIVE**—AND SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

JUNE...
ALIVE?
OH, THANK
GOD...



JUNE, DARLING... YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT...AND **WE'RE** GOING TO BE **MARRIED**! WHEN I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU, I SUDDENLY REALIZED HOW **RIGHT** YOU WERE... THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO LIVE AND LOVE TO THE UTMOST **NOW**, SO THAT WE CAN LIVE ON IN EACH OTHER'S HEARTS WHEN OUR TIME FINALLY COMES!



"YES, WE'RE MARRIED NOW...AND OUR **LOVE** HAS ENABLED US TO FACE THE FUTURE UNAFRAID...TILL DEATH DO US PART!"



BLIND DATE



BLIND DATES CAN LEAD TO BLISS OR TO BITTERNESS--DEPENDING ON YOU! MANY A RAPTUROUSLY-MARRIED COUPLE FIRST MET ON SUCH A DATE--AND MANY A GIRL HAS SWORN OFF BLIND DATES ALTOGETHER, BECAUSE HER FIRST ONE WAS SUCH A TRAGIC EXPERIENCE! YOU CAN MAKE SURE THAT YOUR NEXT BLIND DATE WILL BE A HAPPY SUCCESS BY FOLLOWING THESE FEW SIMPLE SUGGESTIONS, DESIGNED TO OPEN YOUR EYES SO THAT YOU WON'T BE A BLIND FOOL ON A BLIND DATE!

FIRST, LET'S FIND OUT WHAT CAN GO WRONG WITH A BLIND DATE--BY SEEING WHAT HAPPENED TO HELEN BROWN OF DETROIT, WHO WROTE US ABOUT HER UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE!

OH, HELEN, MY BOY-FRIEND'S BROTHER JUST CAME INTO TOWN--AND HE ASKED ME TO FIND HIM A BLIND DATE FOR TONIGHT! WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET HIM?

WELL, I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT, GAIL! YOUR BOYFRIEND'S A NICE FELLOW, SO HIS BROTHER OUGHT TO BE NICE ENOUGH! TELL HIM I'LL BE READY AT EIGHT!

"BUT GETTING READY FOR THE DATE THAT NIGHT, I BEGAN HAVING DOUBTS--PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO HASTY!"

I SHOULD HAVE FOUND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM FIRST! MAYBE HE ISN'T MY TYPE--OR MAYBE HE ISN'T AS NICE AS HIS BROTHER! OH, WELL, IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW--I MIGHT AS WELL GO THROUGH WITH IT!



HELLO -- I'M JIM HARRIS -- I GUESS YOU'RE HELEN! GAIL HADN'T WARNED ME YOU WERE SO BEAUTIFUL -- YOU POSITIVELY DAZZLE ME!

HMM, HE SEEMS TO BE NICE ENOUGH -- EVEN THOUGH HE DOES HAVE A WOLFISH LINE OF TALK!

"TO MY DISMAY, THE FIRST PLACE HE HEADED FOR WAS A SHADY BAR AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN!"

WAITER-- TWO WHISKEYS FOR ME AND MY DATE!

NO, THANKS-- I... I DON'T DRINK!



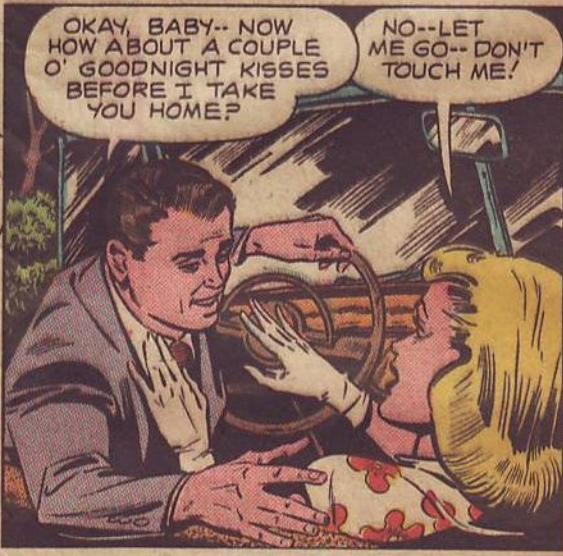
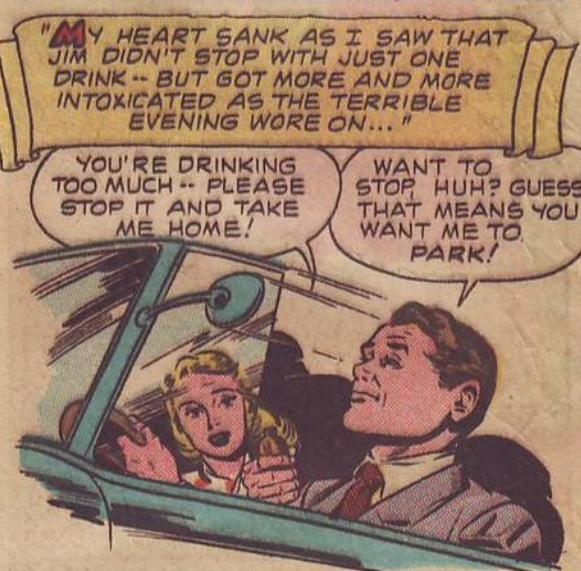
"MY HEART SANK AS I SAW THAT JIM DIDN'T STOP WITH JUST ONE DRINK -- BUT GOT MORE AND MORE INTOXICATED AS THE TERRIBLE EVENING WORE ON..."

YOU'RE DRINKING TOO MUCH -- PLEASE STOP IT AND TAKE ME HOME!

WANT TO STOP, HUH? GUESS THAT MEANS YOU WANT ME TO PARK!

OKAY, BABY-- NOW HOW ABOUT A COUPLE O' GOODNIGHT KISSES BEFORE I TAKE YOU HOME?

NO--LET ME GO--DON'T TOUCH ME!



FEAR AND PANIC SEEMED TO GIVE ME A STRENGTH I NEVER KNEW I POSSESSED, AND SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND FLAG DOWN A PASSING CAR!

HEY-- COME BACK HERE!

OH, THANK GOD-- IT'S A WOMAN DRIVER-- SHE'LL GET ME BACK TO TOWN!

"WHEN I FINALLY GOT BACK TO THE SAFETY OF MY OWN ROOM..."

IT... IT WAS AWFUL!! I'LL NEVER LET ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN-- I'LL NEVER GO OUT ON ANOTHER BLIND DATE-- NEVER!



THAT WAS AN AWFUL EXPERIENCE, HELEN-- BUT ALL MEN AREN'T LIKE JIM HARRIS! BLIND DATES CAN BRING YOU CLEAN, DECENT FUN AND A CHANCE FOR ROMANCE-- IF YOU TAKE THE PROPER PRECAUTIONS TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR BLIND DATE WILL BE A DECENT DATE! HERE'S WHAT ANITA HODGES OF WASHINGTON, D.C., WROTE US ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE -- AND YOU MIGHT BE WISE TO FOLLOW ANITA'S COURSE OF ACTION!

ANITA, I THINK I KNOW JUST THE BOY FOR YOU! HE'S MY NEPHEW-- VERY GOOD-LOOKING, INTELLIGENT, AND HAS AN EXCELLENT JOB! I THINK YOU TWO WOULD MAKE A PERFECT COUPLE-- SHALL I ARRANGE A BLIND DATE?

NOT UNTIL I KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM-- HIS EDUCATION, HIS INTERESTS, HOBBIES-- EVERYTHING!

THEN, AFTER I'D GOTTEN ALMOST A COMPLETE CASE HISTORY OF THE FELLOW..."

WELL, HE SEEMS TO BE ALL RIGHT FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME-- AND HE'S INTERESTED IN ALMOST THE SAME THINGS I AM! BUT ASK HIM TO PHONE ME-- SO I CAN FIND OUT WHAT HE PLANS TO DO ON THE DATE!

I THOUGHT WE MIGHT SPEND THE WHOLE DAY TOGETHER-- TAKE IN THE SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS, THEN GO TO A MOVIE, AND THEN PERHAPS A DANCE AT THE CNIC CENTER!

MMM-- THAT SOUNDS SWELL! WE'VE GOT A DATE!

"I'D LEARNED ALL I COULD ABOUT TOM LANGELY AND HIS BACKGROUND-- BECAUSE ONLY A BLIND FOOL WOULD ACCEPT A BLIND DATE WITH SOMEONE SHE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT! WHEN I WAS CERTAIN HE WAS THE KIND OF BOY I COULD REALLY BE SURE OF, I KNEW OUR BLIND DATE WOULD BE A SUCCESS-- AND IT WAS!"



"OF COURSE, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME, I DIDN'T LET HIM KISS ME ON THAT VERY FIRST DATE-- BUT AFTER SEEING HIM A FEW MORE TIMES, I KNEW IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT, AND MMM-- IT CERTAINLY WAS ALL RIGHT!"

SWEETHEART--! OHH-- TOM!!

YES, READER, BLIND DATES CAN BE WONDERFUL IF YOU TAKE THE PROPER SAFEGUARDS TO MAKE SURE YOUR ESCORT IS THE DECENT TYPE-- AND THEY CAN EVEN LEAD TO THIS!



WHO WILL HE BE?

CATHY tilted her beret and pulled on her gloves. She was going around the corner to the local movies . . . she thought! Her roommates, glancing up from their manicuring tasks, exchanged a private look.

"Where are you going, Cath?" Phyllis asked.

"Movies. Good double tonight." Cathy was almost at the door.

"Don't go tonight, go tomorrow. I want to see it, too," Wanda said, cutting Cathy off at the door.

Without another word, Cathy slid out of her coat and tossed her beret on the dresser. It was no use arguing with these girls. They didn't want her to go out. Obviously, they had rigged up another of those detestable blind dates for her. They must have invited some unwilling guy over for the evening. Object . . . *romance for Cathy!*

How Cathy hated it, the planning that must go on in secret, the half-pitying remarks her roommates must make. Most of all, she hated those terrible evenings, when a guy turned up, expecting that she would fall into his arms out of gratitude!

What really happened was painful. Cathy would stammer some stupid, trite remark about the weather or a book she happened to be reading. Her sense of humor would fly out the window, scared off by the necessity of being attractive, of *making* this man want to see her again.

And always, the evening ended in miserable failure. The guy would check out early, muttering some excuse about having to be up at six in the morning. Cathy would feel that she had smiled too much and Phyllis and Wanda, shaking their heads, would

try to cheer her up. "Wasn't the right guy, anyhow!"

Now, alone in the living room, Cathy felt the old dread coming on. In her heart, she knew that she was capable of *real* romance, that she could love and be loved as every girl wished. Half-closing her eyes, Cahty allowed her fancy to drift.

Supposing that this was someone she loved, someone whose very footsteps set her heart beating faster. She would know what to say to him, she thought. He would walk towards her, his arms an invitation to romance. And she would hasten towards him, her lips parted, her eyes telling him the story of her love.

It was almost real, Cathy's vision. Conjuring up his figure, she murmured dreamily, "Darling, it's Heaven to have you with me again . . . it's been so lonely without you!"

To her horror, a masculine voice, not at all imaginary, answered, "Who's the lucky guy you're thinking of?"

It was Cathy's date, the evening's unknown! Blushing, confused, Cathy heard the introductions through a haze. Her one desire was to leave, to hide. What a fool she'd just made of herself!

Stammering, she tried to excuse herself. "I . . . I was just going out," she lied, and the lie was painfully obvious.

But the young man would not accept that. Taking Cathy's hand, gently, he refused to let her go. "Whoever it is," he said, "I'd rather you stayed here. Who knows? Perhaps you'll be saying those lovely words to *me* some day!"

Cathy's heart leaped . . . for suddenly, it seemed possible!

HUSBAND HUNTER

"NO, I DON'T WANT TO MARRY CLINT---HE DOESN'T HAVE A CENT TO HIS NAME! IT'S LLOYD I WANT---HE'S RICH ENOUGH TO GIVE ME LUXURY, AS WELL AS LOVE!"



"IF CUPID EVER GAVE YOU YOUR CHOICE, READER, WOULD YOU BE CONTENT TO BE WOODED BY A WOODSMAN, A HUNTER WHOSE KISSES WERE AS WILD AND TEMPESTUOUS AS THE STORMS THAT SWIRL OVER THE MAINE NORTHWOODS--- OR WOULD YOU RATHER SETTLE FOR A MAN WHO COULD OFFER YOU THE LIFE OF GLAMOR, WEALTH AND ROMANCE THAT EVERY GIRL DREAMS ABOUT? WELL, THAT WAS MY PROBLEM-- AND IF YOU'RE THINKING OF BECOMING A HUSBAND-HUNTER, YOU CAN PROFIT FROM MY EXPERIENCE!"

WHAT A DILAPIDATED DUMP TO SPEND A VACATION IN--IT LOOKS LIKE THE MOST RAM-SHACKLE HUNTING LODGE IN NORTHERN MAINE!

WELL, YOU CAN'T EXPECT PARADISE FOR THE DIRT-CHEAP RATES THEY CHARGE HERE! BUT SAY---JUST LOOK AT THAT GIRL---MAYBE THIS IS PARADISE!



WHAT'S A LOVELY LIKE YOU DOING UP HERE IN THE NORTHWOODS? YOU'RE NOT HERE WITH YOUR HUSBAND OR FIANCÉ, ARE YOU?

NO, I'M NOT MARRIED-- AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FIANCÉ!

SWELL! IF YOU'RE UNATTACHED, YOU CAN GO OUT HUNTING WITH US THIS AFTERNOON!



"THE FRANK
ADMIRATION
IN THEIR EYES
MADE ME
BLUSH WITH
PLEASURE.
AND MY
HEART
POUNDED
AT THE
PROSPECT
OF ROMANCE--
UNTIL I
REMEMBERED
HOW ALL MY
PREVIOUS
PROSPECTS
HAD FIZZLED
OUT!"



AH, THERE YOU ARE--HEY! WHY ARE YOU SERVING US--- WHERE'S THE WAITRESS?

SHE...SHE'S SERVING YOU RIGHT NOW! YOU SEE, I'M NORA, THE LODGE OWNER'S DAUGHTER---AND I...I DO THE COOKING AND THE SERVING AND ALMOST ALL THE CHORES AROUND HERE! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID I WAS TOO BUSY TO GO HUNTING WITH YOU!



"I SAW THE LOOK OF INSTANT REJECTION IN THEIR VEILED EYES---AND I TURNED AWAY TO HIDE THE TEARS OF WRETCHEDNESS--"

WE'D BETTER FORGET ABOUT HER---SHE'S ONLY A WAITRESS AROUND HERE!

I'VE HEARD WHISPERS LIKE THAT SO MANY TIMES BEFORE---BUT IT HURTS MORE AND MORE EACH TIME!



IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY--- EVER SINCE MOTHER DIED AND I HAD TO START HELPING DAD MANAGE THE PLACE! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN DRUDGERY AND WORK---AND NEVER ANY TIME FOR LOVE AND ROMANCE! OH, IF ONLY I COULD MEET SOME MAN WHO WAS RICH AND HAND-SOME---SOMEONE WHO WOULD TAKE ME AWAY FROM ALL THIS!

I OVERHEARD WHAT HAPPENED IN THE DINING ROOM, NORA---BUT YOU SHOULDN'T CRY OVER IT! I ONLY WISH WE COULD AFFORD TO HIRE SOMEONE TO DO YOUR WORK!



"MY TEARS HAD DRIED BY THE TIME I WENT OUT TO THE WELL IN BACK OF THE LODGE...WHERE I SUDDENLY FELT AN ARM STEAL AROUND MY WAIST, AND A PAIR OF LIPS CARESS MY CHEEK!"



"MY HEART LEAPED WITH THE TINGLING ANTICIPATION THAT IT WAS ONE OF THE HANDSOME NEWCOMERS--BUT MY EAGER HOPES FOR ROMANCE WERE RUDELY SHATTERED WHEN I TURNED TO SEE IT WAS ONLY CLINT MASTERS, THE LODGE'S HUNTING GUIDE!"

"HELLO, NORA, HONEY---HOW ABOUT A KISS FOR THE VICTORIOUS HUNTER WHO JUST BAGGED THREE DEER?"

"OH, GO AWAY, CLINT---HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU TO STOP PESTERING ME WITH YOUR ATTENTIONS? SURE, I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU--BUT I'VE GOT TO BEGIN THINKING OF MY FUTURE!"



"YOU WELCOMED MY KISSES ONCE, DARLING---AND YOU'LL NEVER STOP WELCOMING THEM!"

"CLINT, NO---OHHH!"

"POWERFUL ARMS SEIZED ME, SWEEP ME IRRESISTIBLY INTO THE OLD FAMILIAR RAPTURE OF HIS EMBRACE---AND AGAINST MY WILL I FOUND MYSELF YIELDING ONCE AGAIN BEFORE HIS IMPETUOUS CHARM!"

"CLINT... OH, CLINT!"

"SWEETHEART, YOU KNOW WE LOVE EACH OTHER---WHEN WILL YOU MARRY ME?"



"THAT BROKE THE BEWITCHING SPELL! I BROKE AWAY, ANGRY AT MYSELF FOR HAVING LET THE LONELINESS OF MY LIFE BETRAY ME INTO ACCEPTING THE KISSES OF A MAN WHOM I COULDN'T POSSIBLY LOVE!"

"I'D NEVER MARRY A MERE BACKWOODS GUIDE LIKE YOU---YOU'LL NEVER MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO GIVE A GIRL ALL THE THINGS HER HEART DESIRES! I DON'T INTEND TO LET MYSELF BE TIED DOWN FOREVER TO A LIFE OF DRUDGERY---AND THAT'S THE ONLY KIND OF A LIFE YOU HAVE TO OFFER!"

"BUT NORA LISTEN---"



"I DIDN'T LISTEN, BUT RAN DOWN TO MY FAVORITE SPOT AT THE EDGE OF THE LAKE---WHERE I SPENT MY PITIFUL FEW SPARE MINUTES EACH DAY DREAMING ABOUT A LIFE OF WEALTH, GLAMOR, ROMANCE!"

"I...I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT TRYING TO MEET SOME WEALTHY YOUNG BACHELORS---OR I'LL NEVER FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN TAKE ME AWAY FROM ALL THIS!"



"BUT THE ONLY KIND OF MEN WHO COME TO OUR LODGE ARE THOSE WHO HAD TO SCRIMP AND SAVE FOR A WHOLE YEAR TO PAY FOR A MISERABLE TWO-WEEK VACATION---THOSE WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY THE RATES CHARGED BY AN EXCLUSIVE RITZY RESORT LIKE THAT REGAL LODGE ACROSS THE LAKE! IF ONLY I COULD MEET ONE OF THE RICH MEN WHO GO THERE---"

"WONDER IF THIS IS MOOSE LAKE---AH THERE'S SOMEONE BELOW WHO CAN TELL ME!"

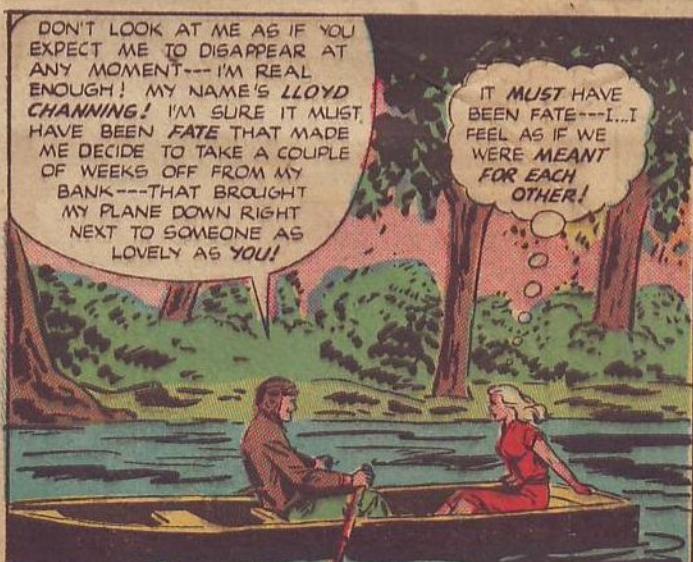




"I COULD HAVE SHOUTED LOUDER---BUT THIS WAS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO MEET ONE OF REGAL LODGE'S GUESTS FACE-TO-FACE! AND SO, OVERCOME WITH CURiosity..."



"HE WAS YOUNG AND HANDSOME---AND WONDER OF WONDERS, HE WAS STARING AT ME WITH A RAPT LOOK OF UNABASHED ADMIRATION!"



WHERE'D YOU PICK HIM UP, NORA? YOU CAN TELL HE'S A PHONEY A MILE OFF!

YOU'RE THE PHONEY--- AND A JEALOUS ONE! LLOYD CHANNING IS STAYING HERE BECAUSE HE'S INTERESTED IN ME---AND I'M WARNING YOU---DON'T TRY TO INTERFERE WITH OUR FRIENDSHIP!

"NEXT MORNING..."

HERE'S A HUNDRED FOR YOUR TROUBLE!--- NORA, THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I HIRED OVER THE PHONE TO TAKE OVER YOUR DUTIES--- WILL A COOK, A HANDY MAN AND A HOUSE-CLEANER BE ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU ALL THE FREE TIME YOU WANT---OR SHOULD I SEND BACK FOR MORE?



"MY HEART SOARED! WAS HE DOING ALL THIS FOR ME BECAUSE HE FELT THE SAME VIBRANT STIRRINGS OF LOVE THAT HAD SWEPT MY BEING?"



"FREED OF DRUDGERY, I AT LAST FOUND TIME FOR ROMANCE---WITH A MAN WHO COULD MAKE ALL MY LIFELONG DREAMS OF WEALTH AND GLAMOR COME GLORIOUSLY TRUE!"



"ELATED AT HAVING CAPTURED THE INTEREST OF LLOYD CHANNING, I COULDN'T HELP FLAUNTING MY TRIUMPH IN CLINT'S FACE!"

I'M GOING OUT HUNTING WITH LLOYD TODAY--- COULD YOU RECOMMEND ANY NICE, ROMANTIC SPOTS IN THE WOODS?

WELL, I CAN TAKE YOU OUT TO SOME OF THE WILD DEER TRAILS---BUT I THOUGHT THE ONLY BIG GAME YOU WERE INTERESTED IN, NORA, WAS THE RICH, HUMAN, MALE ANIMAL!



"TORRID ANGER FLARED WITHIN MY HEART AT HIS WORDS, AND I FIERCELY TOLD MYSELF THAT I WASN'T INTERESTED IN LLOYD BECAUSE OF HIS MONEY-- BUT BECAUSE HE WAS TENDER, SINCERE, LOVABLE! THEN, AS WE PLUNGED INTO THE GLOOMY DEPTHS OF THE FOREST--"

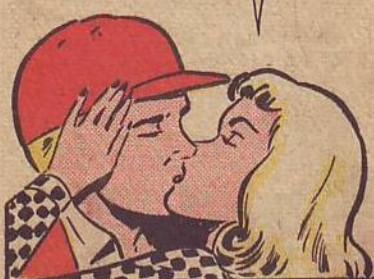
KEEP CLOSE BEHIND ME--- THIS IS DANGEROUS BEAR COUNTRY!

LET'S FOOL HIM! COME HERE--- DARLING!



NORA---I
LOVE YOU!

OH,
LLOYD---



"WITH HIS LIPS TENDERLY ON MINE
AND HIS WORDS OF LOVE ECHOING
BLISSFULLY IN MY HEART, I KNEW AT
LAST THAT ALL MY DREAMS WOULD
BE MINE---AS MRS. NORA CHANNING!
BUT THEN..."



CLINT!

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO! I
NEVER THOUGHT YOUD STOOP TO THIS, NORA--
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST HAVING A
HARMLESS FLIRTATION, BUT NOW I SEE
THAT YOU TURNED DOWN MY REAL LOVE
FOR A PHONEY'S SMOOTH LINE OF
TALK---JUST BECAUSE I'M NOT
RICH AND HE IS!

"I FRAMED A FURIOUS, SCATHING REPLY--
BUT THE WORDS FROZE IN MY THROAT AS
I SAW A HORRIBLE FORM EMERGE FROM
THE BUSHES BEHIND CLINT!"



"BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!"



IT... IT'S COMING
THIS WAY! CLINT,
LLOYD... HELP!

MY... MY
RIFLE WAS
KNOCKED
OUT OF MY
HANDS---SHOOT,
CHANNING---
SHOOT!

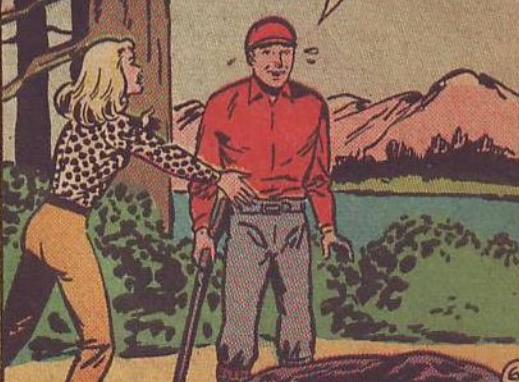


"CLOSER AND CLOSER LUMBERED THE AWFUL BEAST, ITS
BEAUTY EYES GLEAMING EVILLY! BUT THEN..."



OH, LLOYD--
YOU KILLED IT--
YOU SAVED ME!

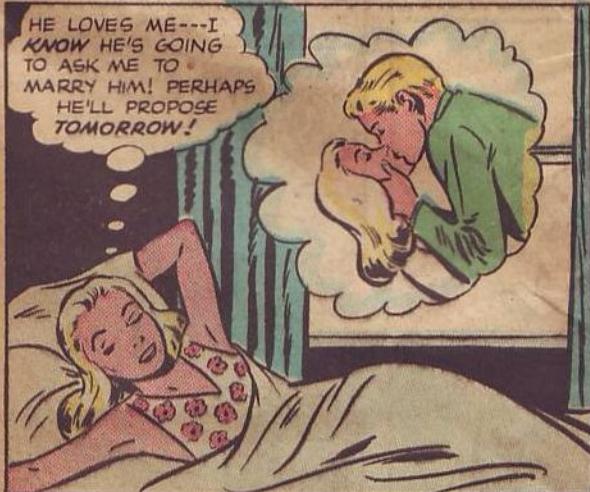
YES, DARLING---IT WAS
HEADING FOR YOU AND I
COULD HAVE RUN TO SAFETY,
BUT I COOLLY STOOD MY
GROUND AND FIRED---BE-
CAUSE I KNEW I HAD TO
SAVE YOU!



"THIS TIME,
WITH HIS LIPS
UPON MINE
AND OUR TWO
HEARTS BEATING
AS ONE, I
WAS CERTAIN
THAT LLOYD
WAS MY TRUE
LOVE---FOR
HADN'T HE
PROVEN HIS
DEVOTION AND
LOYALTY BY
RISKING HIS
LIFE TO
SAVE MINE?"



"I DISMISSED CLINT'S HATEFUL WORDS FROM MY MIND,
AND ALL THAT NIGHT I COULD THINK ONLY OF ONE THING."



"BUT THE FIRST THING THAT GREETED ME THE NEXT MORNING WAS..."



"OVER AND OVER AGAIN, I TRIED TELLING MYSELF THAT IT WAS ALL SOME HORRIBLE MISTAKE---FOR LLOYD COULDN'T BE ENGAGED TO ANOTHER! BUT---"

DARLING, THERE... THERE'S A WOMAN OUT FRONT WHO CLAIMS TO BE ENGAGED TO YOU---

ELLEN! HOW IN BLAZES DID SHE FIND OUT I WAS HERE?

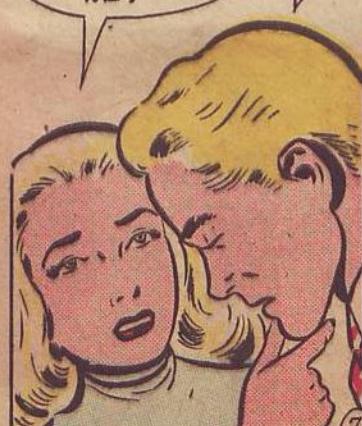


YOU MEAN SHE IS YOUR FIANCÉE?
DON'T LOOK AT ME SO ACCUSINGLY, DARLING! YES, I AM ENGAGED TO ELLEN---BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU ON THE LAKE, I'VE LOVED YOU WITH ALL MY HEART!



BUT IF YOU REALLY LOVE ME, YOU CAN BREAK YOUR ENGAGEMENT---YOU CAN STILL MARRY ME!

NO, NORA---I... I CAN'T!



"YOU SEE, I'M NOT REALLY RICH---I WAS POVERTY-STRICKEN BEFORE I MET ELLEN! SHE'S NOT VERY PRETTY, AS YOU SAW---BUT HER FATHER GAVE ME MONEY, AND THAT PLANE, AND A JOB IN HIS BANK IF I PROMISED TO MARRY HER! I CAN'T BEAR TO GIVE IT ALL UP AND RETURN TO POVERTY BY REFUSING TO MARRY HER NOW!"



AH, THERE YOU ARE! IS THIS GIRL THE REASON WHY YOU'RE STAYING AT THIS MISERABLE HOVEL INSTEAD OF AT REGAL LODGE?

OF COURSE NOT, DARLING---THIS GIRL MEANS NOTHING TO ME!



"I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT! WHEN I CALLED REGAL LODGE TO SPEAK TO YOU, AND FOUND OUT YOU WEREN'T THERE, I KNEW SOMETHING FUNNY WAS GOING ON! MY PRIVATE DETECTIVES DUG UP THE FACT THAT YOU'D HIRED SOME HELP FOR MOOSE LAKE LODGE---AND I DROVE UP HERE IMMEDIATELY! BUT NOW I'M NOT LETTING YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT UNTIL YOU MARRY ME!"

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO THE NEAREST PREACHER--OR I'LL CALL UP MY FATHER!

HOW COULD I EVER HAVE EVEN WANTED TO MARRY A CONTEMPTIBLE, SPINELESS MAN LIKE THAT? AND I... I WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST AS CONTEMPTIBLE IF I'D MARRIED FOR MONEY!



"NORA, I HEARD SOMEONE SHOUTING UP HERE---ANYTHING WRONG?"

NO, NOTHING'S WRONG, DARLING---NOW THAT I REALIZE HOW I BLINDED MYSELF TO A REAL MAN'S LOVE---AND TO MY LOVE FOR YOU!"



"YES, AT LAST MY TEMPESTUOUS HEART UNDERSTOOD THAT A GIRL CAN ONLY BE HAPPY IF SHE MARRIES FOR LOVE---AND THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD I COULD EVER LOVE!"



"TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS, READER---LOVE IS THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS! AND EVEN THE PRIMITIVE WOODS CAN BE LIKE ADAM AND EVE'S GARDEN OF EDEN, AS LONG AS YOU'RE MARRIED TO THE ONE MAN YOU REALLY CARE FOR!"



...The End...

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Of LOVELORN, published Bi-monthly at Sparta, Illinois, for October 1st, 1950.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher Michel Publications, Inc., Sparta, Illinois; Editor, Richard E. Hughes, 120 West 183rd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing editor, None.; Business manager, Frederick H. Iger, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Michel Publications, Inc., Sparta, Illinois; B. W. Sangor, 7 West 31st Street, New York, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

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(Signed) RICHARD E. HUGHES, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of September, 1950.

Nat C. Cherman, Notary Public, State of New York (My commission expires March 30, 1951)

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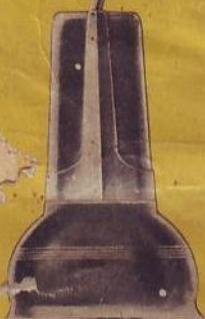
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